IDW
50
COVER A
SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG
Karasuno
SEGA®
FLYNN • THOMAS • HERMS • GRAHAM • BRECKEL

STORY
IAN FLYNN

ART
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

COLORS
MATT HERMS
HEATHER BRECKEL
REGGIE GRAHAM

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
NICK NIÑO

EDITORS
RILEY FARMER
DAVID MARIOTTE

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

IDW
@IDWpublishing
IDWpublishing.com

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #50. JUNE 2022. © SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2355 Northside Drive, Suite 140, San Diego, CA 92108. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

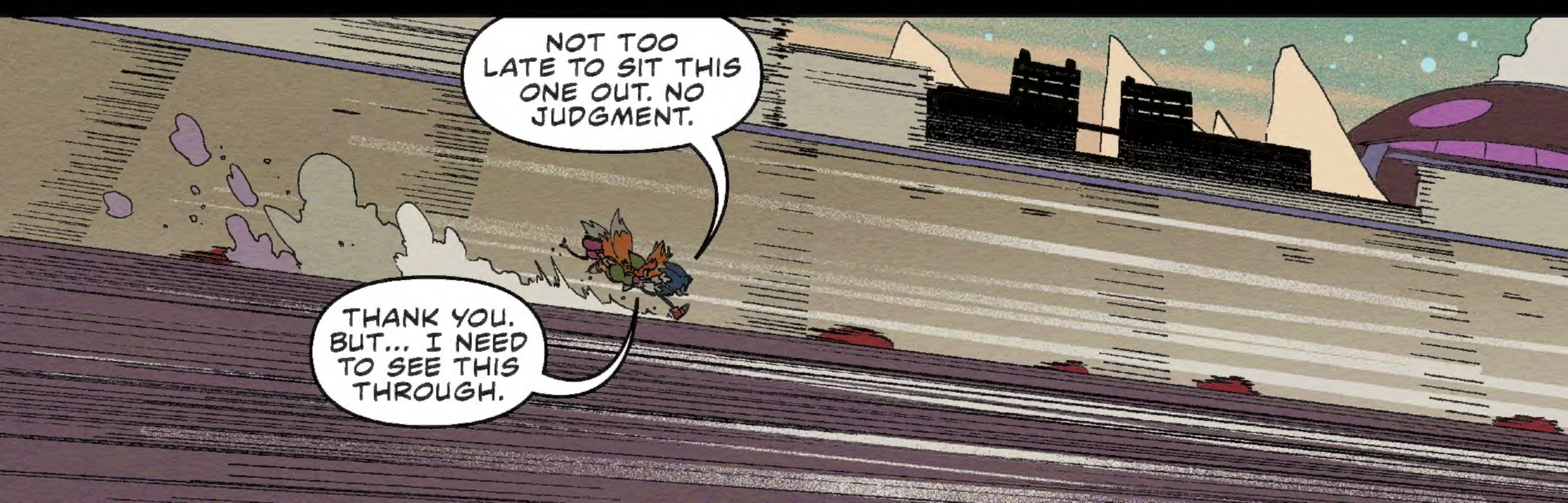
Nachie Marsham, Publisher
Blake Kobashigawa, SVP Sales, Marketing & Strategy
Tara McCrillis, VP Publishing Operations
Anna Morrow, VP Marketing & Publicity
Alex Hargett, VP Sales
Jamie S. Rich, Executive Editorial Director
Lauren LePera, Sr. Managing Editor
Greg Gustin, Sr. Director, Content Strategy
Keith Davidsen, Director, Marketing & PR

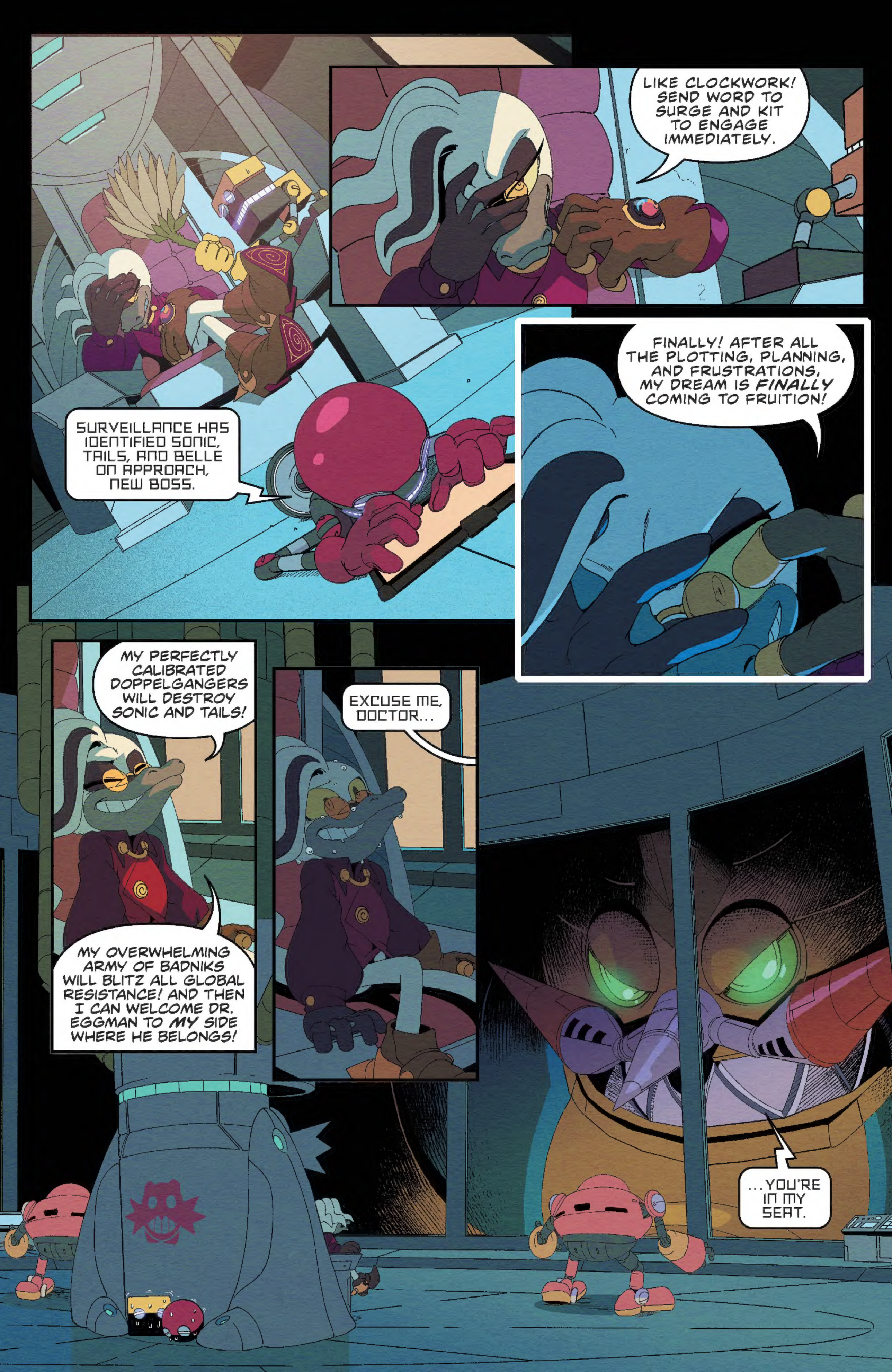
Topher Alford, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager
Patrick O'Connell, Sr. Manager, Direct Market Sales
Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations
Nathan Widick, Director of Design
Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production
Shawn Lee, Art Director, Design & Production
Jack Rivera, Art Director, Marketing

Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders

WHY WOULD EGGMAN MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL ABOUT SUMMONING ALL THESE BADNIKS?
THE GUY LIKES TO MAKE A BIG PRESENTATION. CAN'T FAULT HIM FOR THAT!

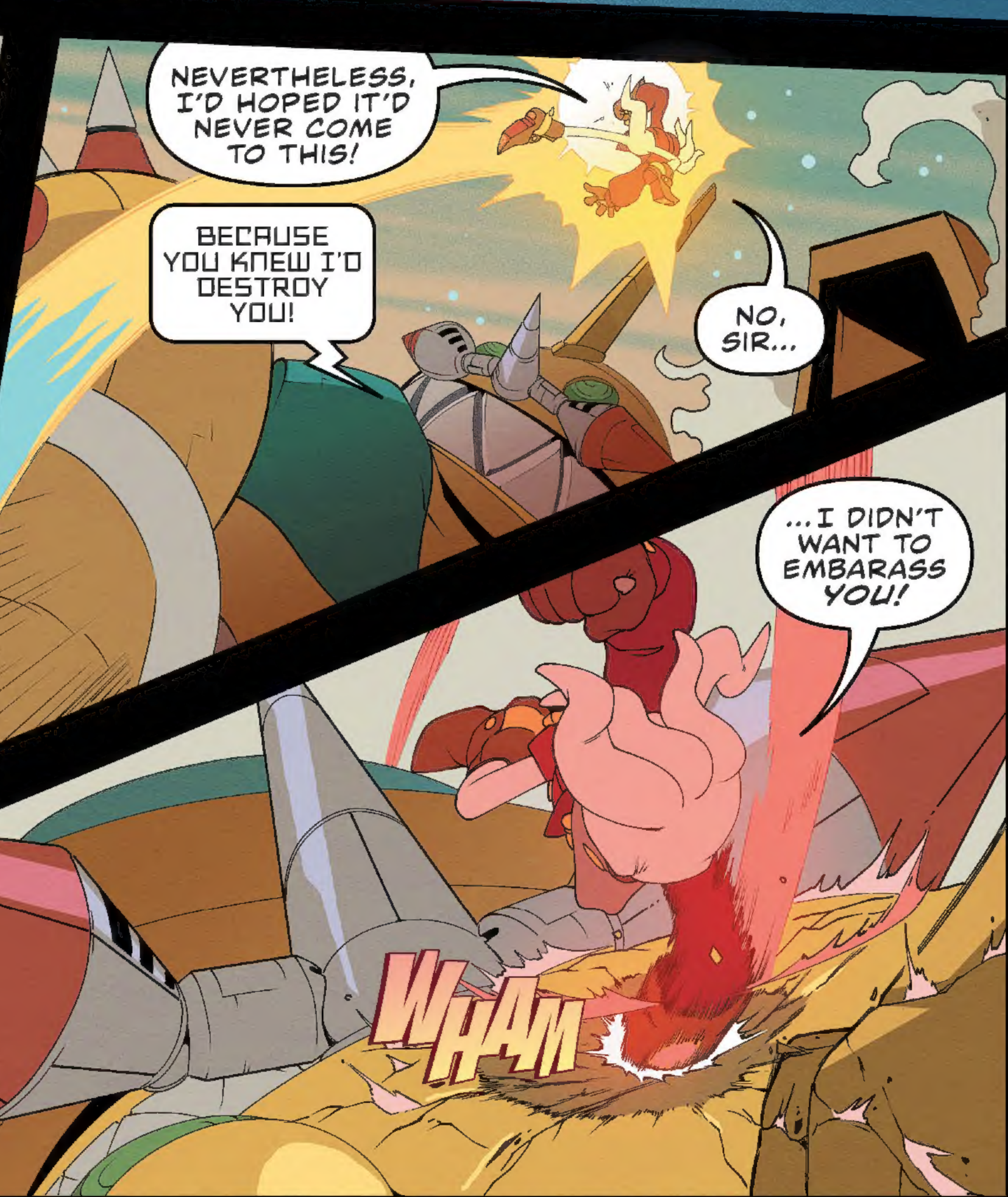
YEAH, BUT... DOESN'T IT USUALLY COME WITH SOME KIND OF DECLARATION?


NOT TOO LATE TO SIT THIS ONE OUT. NO JUDGMENT.
THANK YOU. BUT... I NEED TO SEE THIS THROUGH.


LIKE CLOCKWORK! SEND WORD TO SURGE AND KIT TO ENGAGE IMMEDIATELY.
SURVEILLANCE HAS IDENTIFIED SONIC, TAILS, AND BELLE ON APPROACH, NEW BOSS.
FINALLY! AFTER ALL THE PLOTTING, PLANNING, AND FRUSTRATIONS, MY DREAM IS FINALLY COMING TO FRUITION!
MY PERFECTLY CALIBRATED DOPPELGANGERS WILL DESTROY SONIC AND TAILS!
MY OVERWHELMING ARMY OF BADNIKS WILL BLITZ ALL GLOBAL RESISTANCE! AND THEN I CAN WELCOME DR. EGGMAN TO MY SIDE WHERE HE BELONGS!
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR...
...YOU'RE IN MY SEAT.

SMASH

SUPERLATIVE ENTRANCE, SIR! IMMACULATE!


NEVERTHELESS, I'D HOPED IT'D NEVER COME TO THIS!
BECAUSE YOU KNEW I'D DESTROY YOU!
NO, SIR...
...I DIDN'T WANT TO EMBARASS YOU!
WHAM

EGGMAN IS... ATTACKING HIS OWN CITY?
NO, I THINK HE'S FIGHTING SOMEONE...
OH MY GEARS AND STARTERS!

THAT BADNIK LOOKS LIKE SONIC! IS THAT... *METAL SONIC?*

YEAH, AND SOMEBODY REALLY MESSED HIM UP. WHAT IS GOING ON TODAY?

I'M GOING TO FIX HIM.

I COULDN'T SAVE MOTOBUD. I KNOW I CAN'T SAVE EVERY BADNIK. BUT... I CAN'T ABANDON A ROBOT IN NEED.

I UNDERSTAND. JUST BE CAREFUL. HE'S DANGEROUS.
UM... YOU HAD ME REPAIR HIM AFTER THE WHOLE NEO METAL TAKEOVER THING, REMEMBER?*
*STH #12--EDS.

THAT WAS BACK WHEN WE THOUGHT EGGMAN WAS DONE AND DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT STARLINE! PLUS, YOU DE-WEAPONIZED HIM!
HE STILL HAD HIS METAL CLAWS AND A TURBINE TORSO.
MY POINT IS--

SONIC? WHERE DID YOU...
CRACK-BOOM

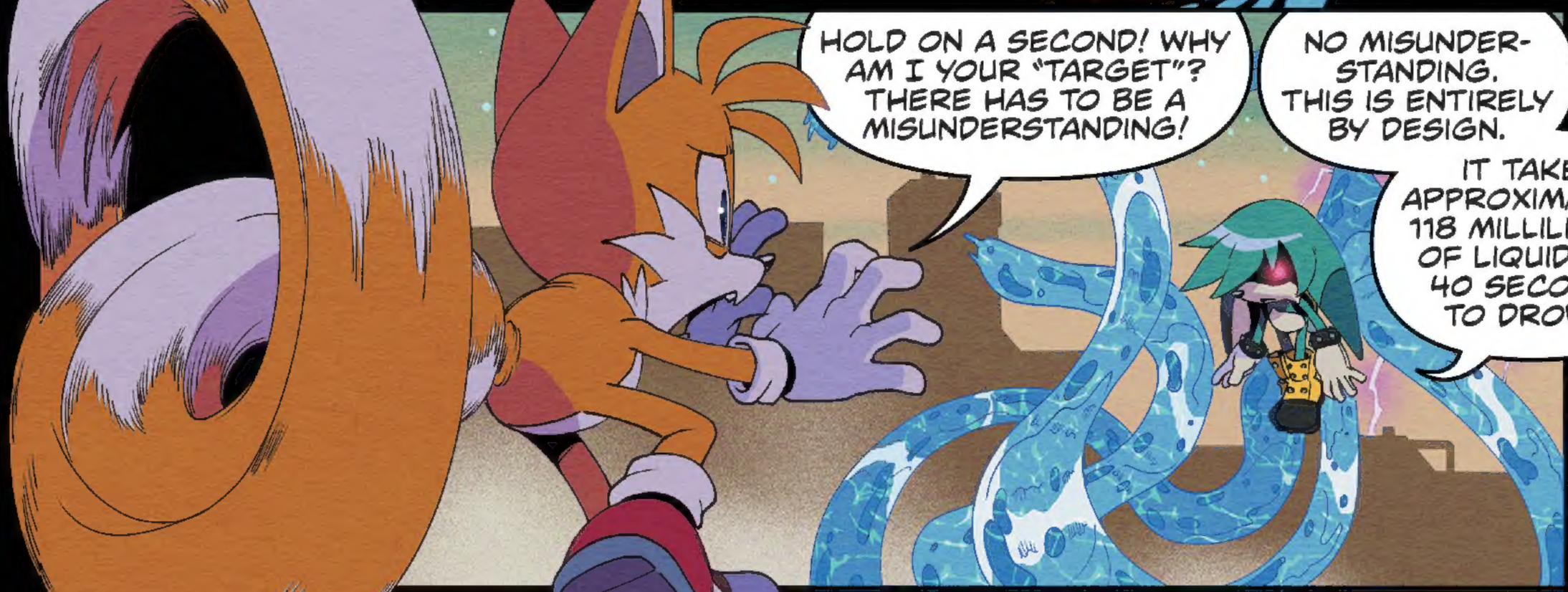
AUGH!
TAILS?!

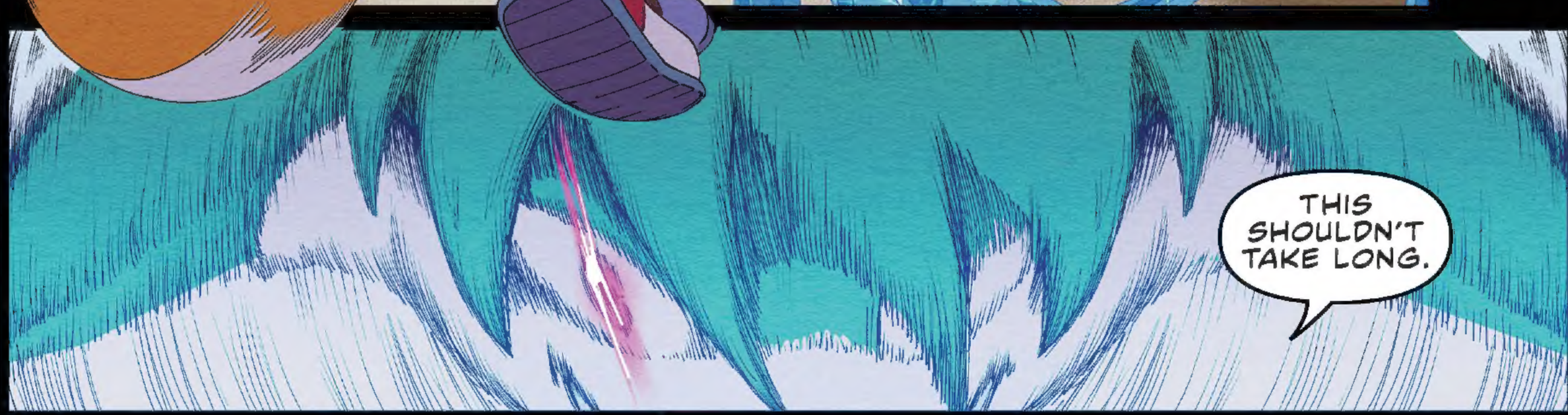
AW, SAWDUST!

WHAT?! WHO?!
HELLO. I AM KITSUNAMI. YOU ARE MY TARGET.

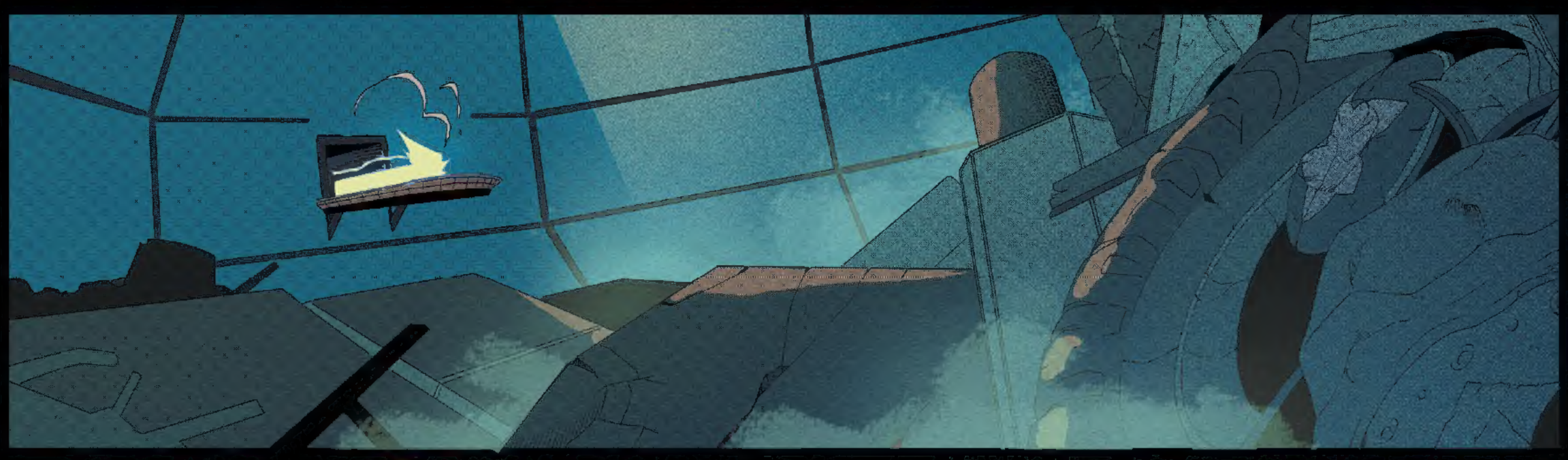
SPLISH

SPLASH

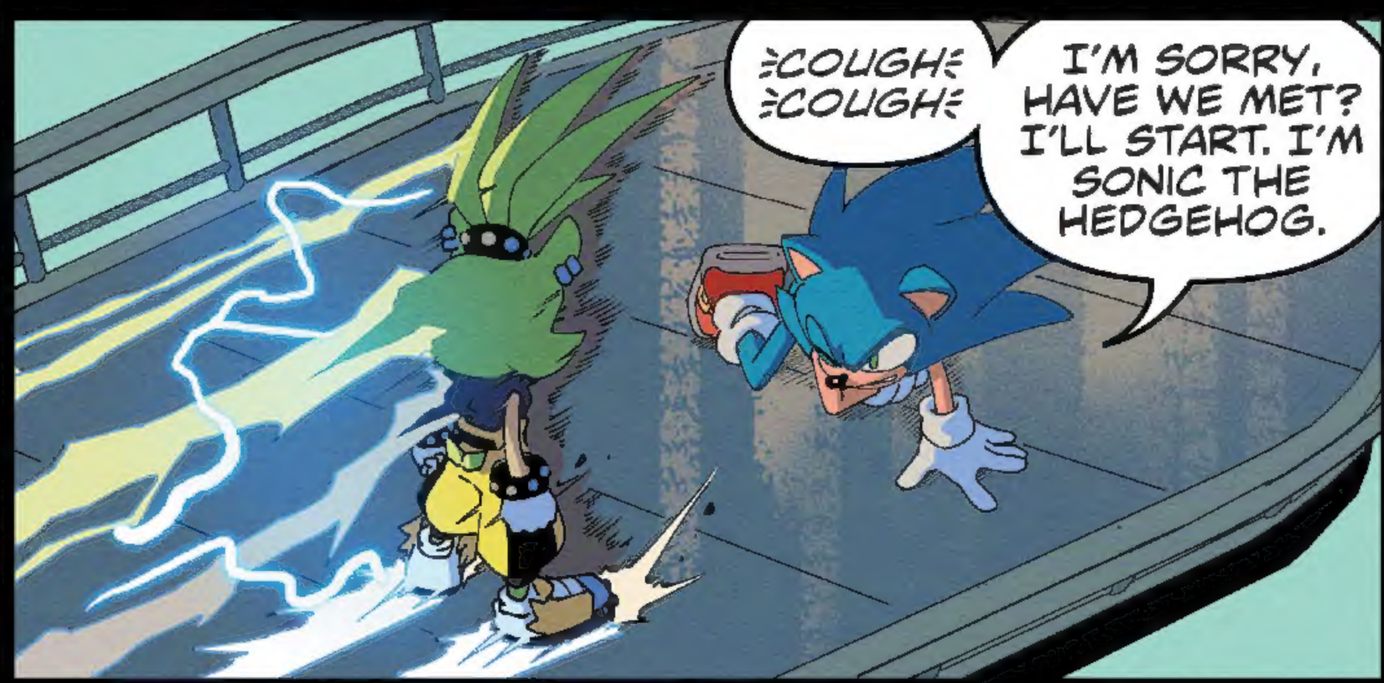

HOLD ON A SECOND! WHY AM I YOUR "TARGET"? THERE HAS TO BE A MISUNDERSTANDING!
NO MISUNDERSTANDING. THIS IS ENTIRELY BY DESIGN.
IT TAKES APPROXIMATELY 118 MILLILITERS OF LIQUID AND 40 SECONDS TO DROWN.


THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

GRK... WHO?!



CREEEECH
CLANG


COUGH COUGH
I'M SORRY, HAVE WE MET? I'LL START. I'M SONIC THE HEDGEHOG.

OH, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
IT'S ALL I KNOW, REALLY. AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

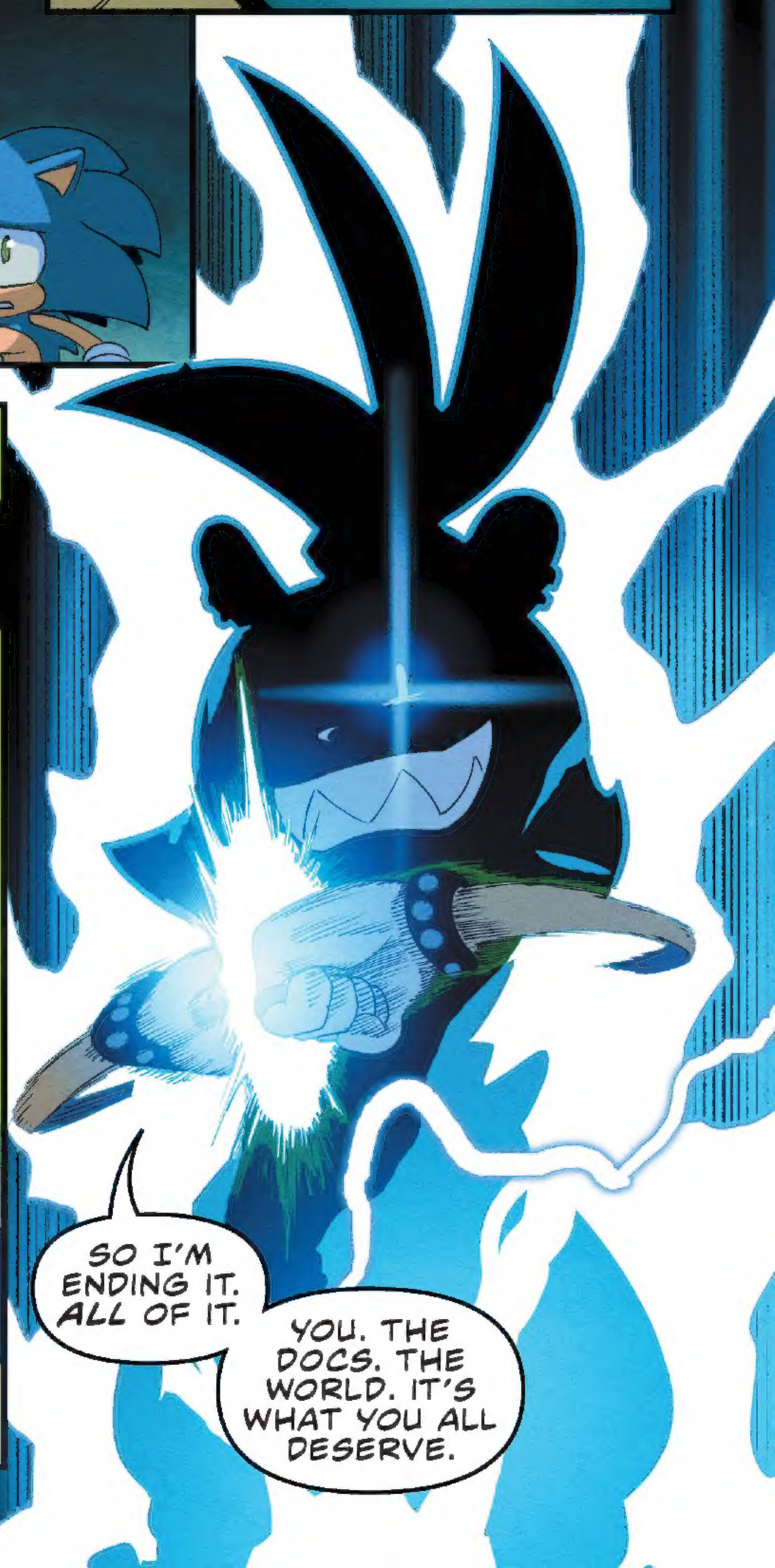
I AM YOUR FAULT. STARLINE? EGGMAN?
SURE, THEY'RE PART OF THIS AND THEY'LL GET THEIRS, BUT IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO YOU.

IF YOU HAD JUST TAKEN THEM OUT, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MADE!

OR IF THAT GOES AGAINST YOUR PRECIOUS "MORAL CODE," YOU COULD'VE JUST ROLLED OVER AND QUIT!

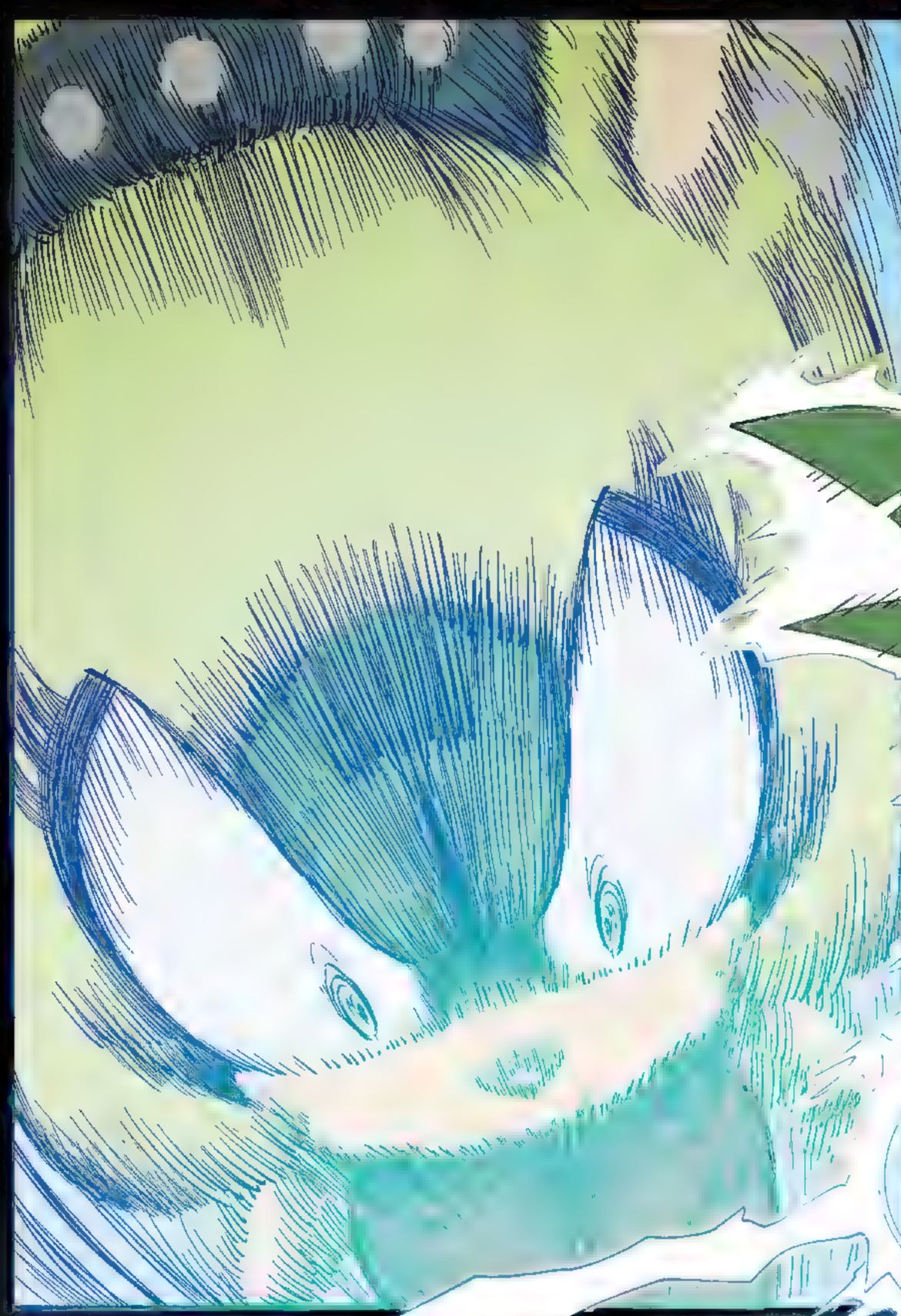
BUT NO! YOU KEEP ON FIGHTING! YOU KEEP ON GIVING IDIOTS THE FREEDOM TO REPEAT THEIR AWFUL MISTAKES!
AND IT JUST KEEPS ON GOING AND GOING AND GOING!

AND THE WHOLE WORLD LOVES YOU FOR IT.


SO I'M ENDING IT. ALL OF IT.
YOU. THE DOCS. THE WORLD. IT'S WHAT YOU ALL DESERVE.

MAYBE I SPOKE TOO FAST. LET'S TRY AGAIN.

HI! I'M SONIC THE HEDGEHOG. AND YOU ARE?



HEH. YEAH. OKAY. I'M SURGE THE TENREC.
AND YOUR "SPEED OF SOUND" CAN'T COMPETE WITH MY "SPEED OF LIGHT"!

I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE SO CUNNING, STARLINE! BUT IT'S ALL FALLING INTO PLACE FOR ME.

THE STRANGE RAIDS ON MY FACILITIES DIDN'T MATCH ZAVOK'S M.O. SO I LOOKED INTO HOW HE ESCAPED PRISON.

THE WARDEN HAD SOME CHOICE WORDS ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT! SUCH BRAZEN VICIOUSNESS!*

*STH: BAD GUYS--EDS.

SO WHY ARE YOU HIDING NOW, YOU MISERABLE LITTLE SCUMBAG?!

DON'T PANIC--THINK! YOU'RE SO CLOSE! THIS CAN BE SALVAGED!

HE MUST HAVE HAD A QUICK ESCAPE ROUTE BUILT INTO THE COMMAND TOWER.

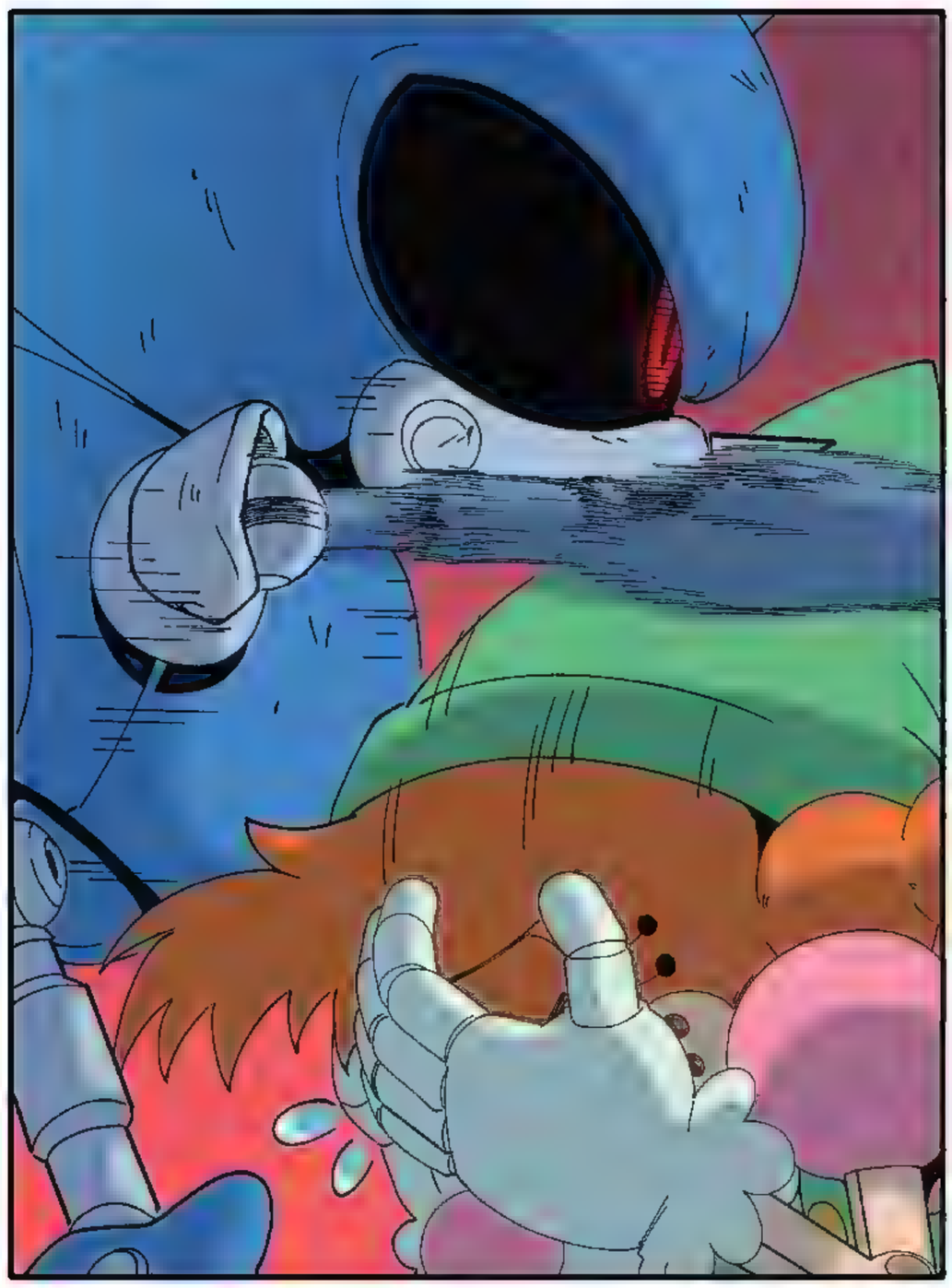
IF I TAKE THE HEIGHT OF THE TOWER, THE SPEED WITH WHICH HE COULD SAFELY ESCAPE, THE PREP TIME TO LAUNCH THAT MECHA AND FLY BACK TO THE TOWER...

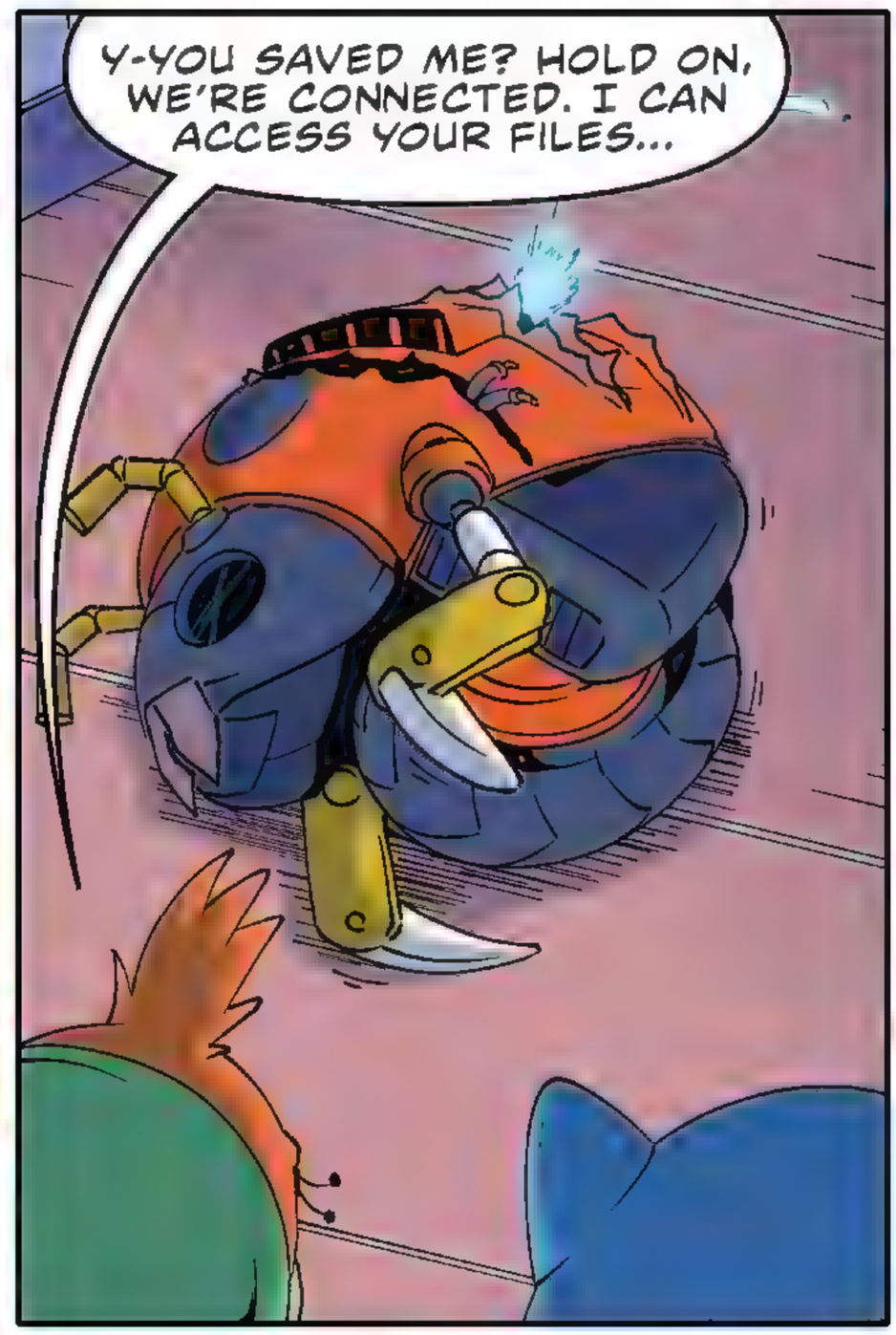
"...THEN THE HANGAR MUST NOT BE TOO FAR AWAY! AND IF HE'S PILOTING THAT OLD CLUNKER, THEN HE MUST HAVE MORE IN STORAGE! ERGO..."

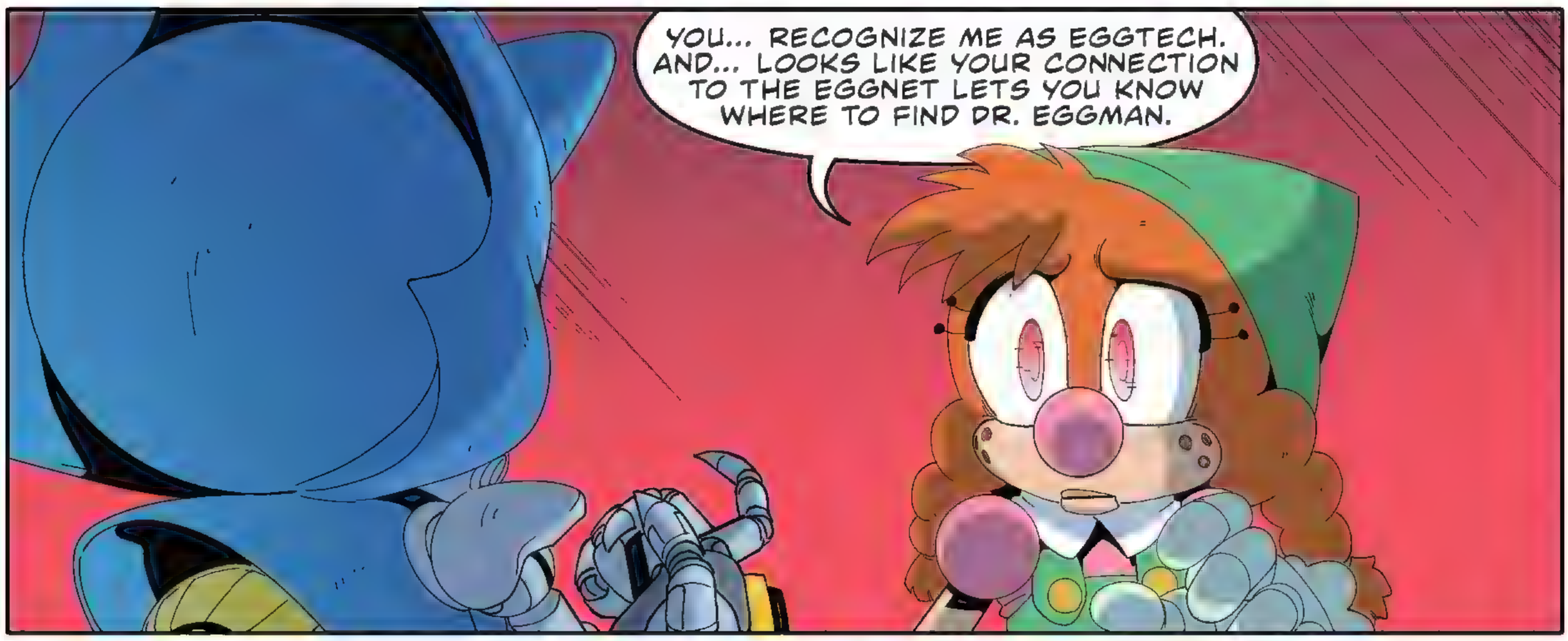
BLAST IT ALL, STARLINE!
DON'T RETREAT TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY! HAVE SOME DIGNITY AND STAND YOUR GROUND LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ATOMIZE YOU!
WHAT?!
SKYEW SKYEW SKYEW
KA-BOOM
WHAT A MARVELOUS VINTAGE ARMORY YOU HAVE!

DOCTOR-- PLEASE--FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE JUST STOP AND LISTEN!
MY PLAN WILL WORK! AND THEN THE WORLD WILL BE OURS!
I DON'T SHARE!
BOOM
IF YOU REALLY UNDERSTOOD ME, YOU'D KNOW I WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS! IT'S ALL OR NOTHING!
AND YOU ARE NOTHING BEFORE ME!
SMASH!

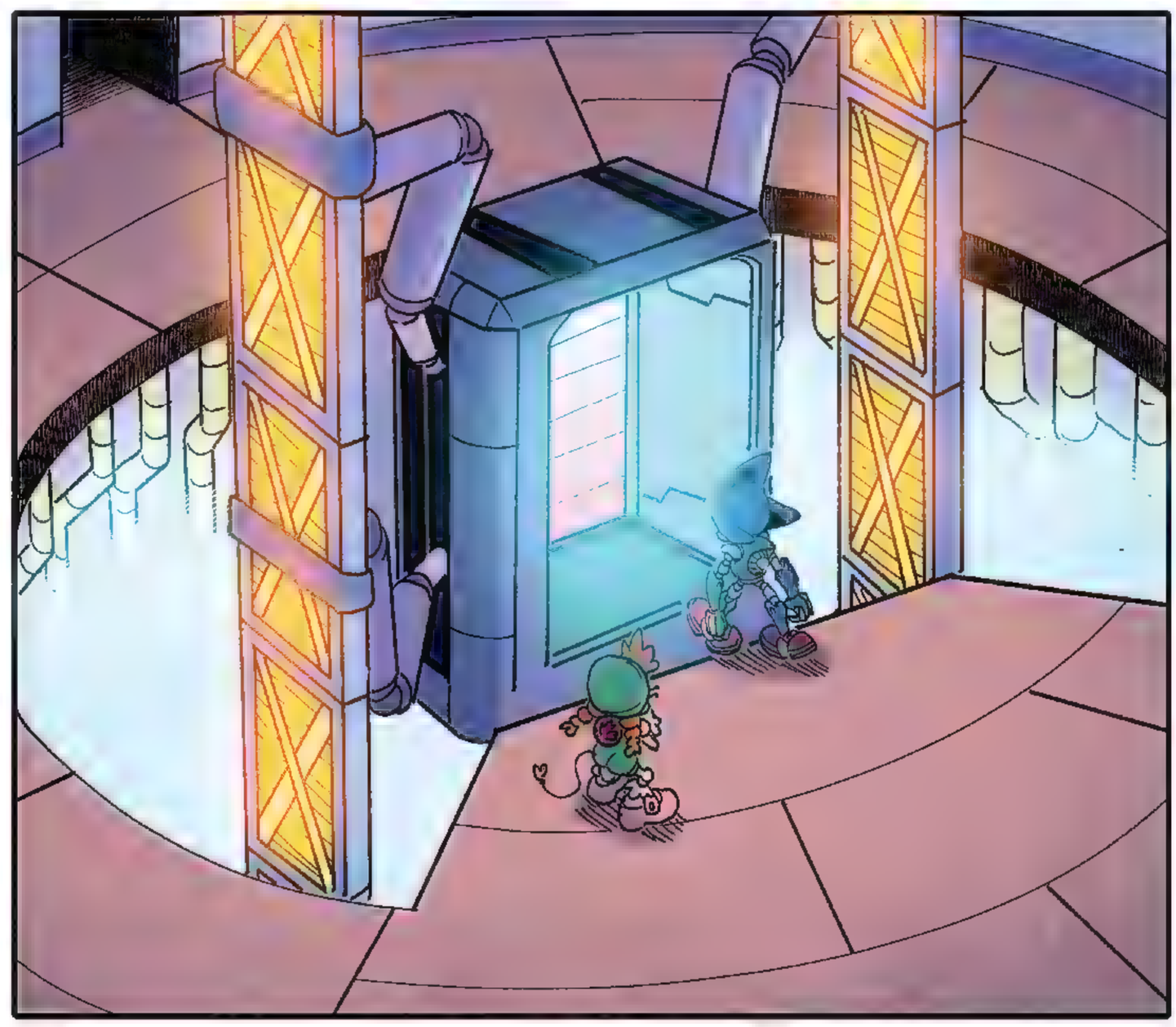
ALMOST DONE! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER THIS HIDING SPOT WILL BE SAFE...
...ESPECIALLY AFTER I BRING YOU BACK ONLINE.
THAT SIGNAL GOT TO ME AND MOTOBUD, AND THAT'S NO GOOD.
UNLESS...
YEAH! I'LL ACT AS A ROUTER AND USE THE ZETI ZAPPER TO BLOCK THE CONTROL SIGNAL TO YOU!
OH, Y-YOU'RE S-STILL A KILLER ROBOT BY DEFAULT, HUH?




Y-YOU SAVED ME? HOLD ON, WE'RE CONNECTED. I CAN ACCESS YOUR FILES...


YOU... RECOGNIZE ME AS EGGTECH. AND... LOOKS LIKE YOUR CONNECTION TO THE EGGNET LETS YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND DR. EGGMAN.

WELL... THIS IS IT, I GUESS. I CAME HERE FOR A REASON.
AND I CAN'T VERY WELL LET YOU GET OUT OF MY RANGE...



I HAVE TO ADMIT--YIKES!--YOUR CONTROL IS IMPRESSIVE!
YOU... LIKE THEM?
YEAH! I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT KIND OF TECH IN A LONG TIME, AND YOUR GEAR LOOKS MUCH COOLER.
IT'S... NOT MINE.

EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT, YOU'RE STILL OPERATING IT.
THAT TAKES A LOT OF SKILL AND FINESSE.
WHY ARE YOU BEING NICE TO ME? I'M TRYING TO DESTROY YOU.

GRANTED, BUT WHAT IF WE COULD FIND SOME COMMON GROUND INSTEAD?
YOUR TALENTS ARE PRETTY UNIQUE, AND I'LL BET NOT EVERYONE APPRECIATES THAT UNIQUENESS, AM I RIGHT?

I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT BEING DIFFERENT.
IT TOOK A LOT OF PRACTICE TO REALLY GET A HANDLE ON THESE.

IT WASN'T EASY, AND IT'S THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM MY FRIENDS.
I GET THE FEELING YOU DIDN'T GET THAT KIND OF HELP. WOULD YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

I DON'T NEED ANY FRIENDS.

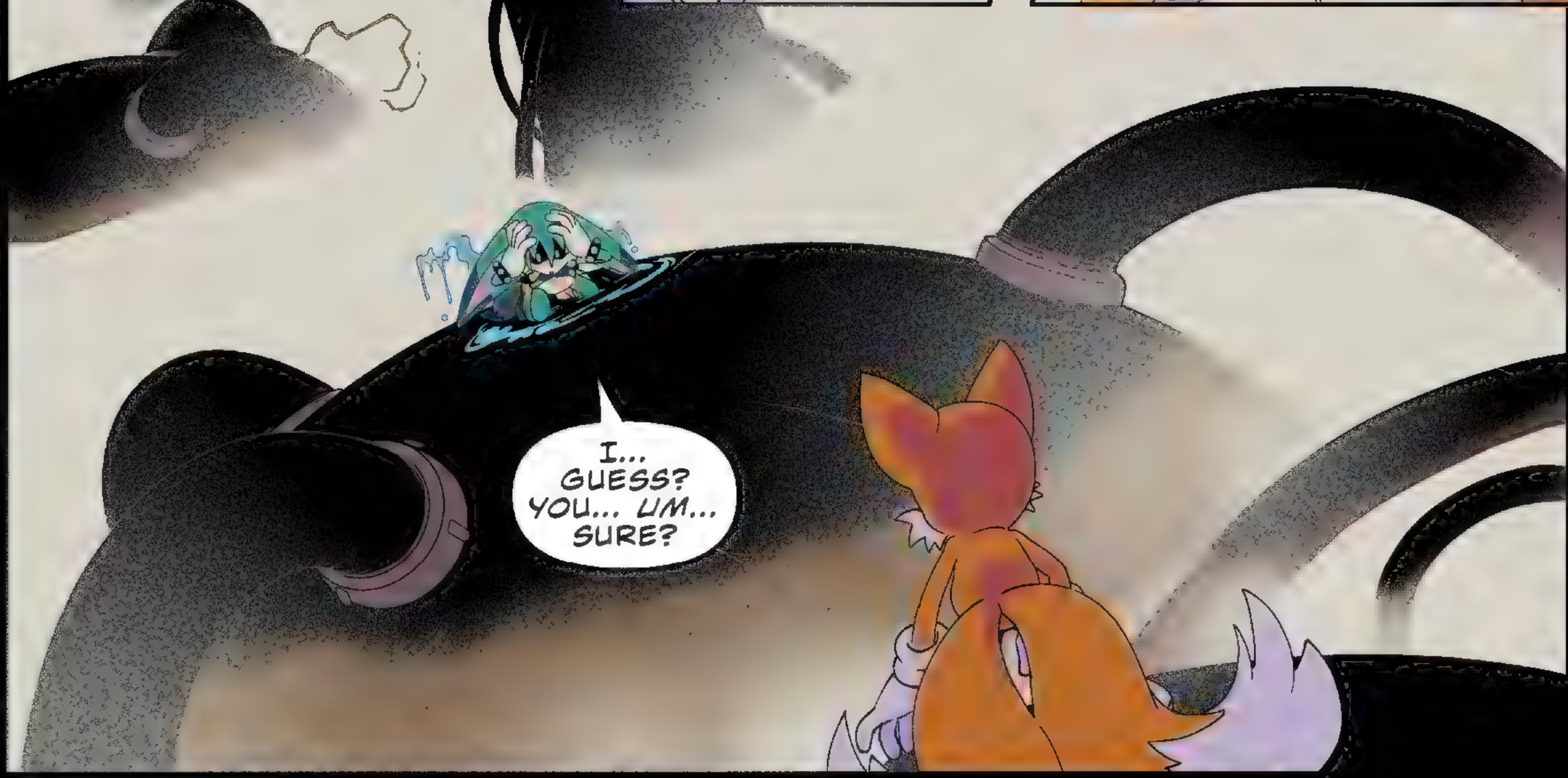
THAT'S OKAY! I'M FINE WITH COMPETITIVE RIVALRY! CAN WE WORK TOWARD THAT?

DON'T... DON'T ASK ME WHAT I WANT...
...S-SHE'S NOT HERE SO I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW!

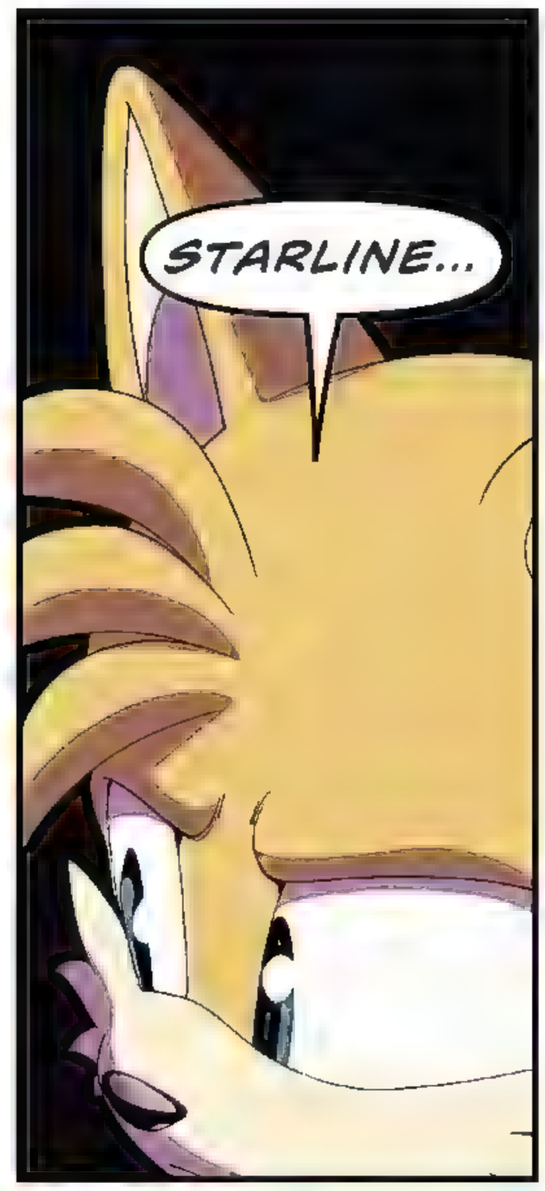
HE'S VULNERABLE BUT VOLATILE. I'VE GOT TO HANDLE THIS CAREFULLY...

MY THROAT IS GETTING SORE FROM SHOUTING. MAY I JOIN YOU?
W-WHAT?

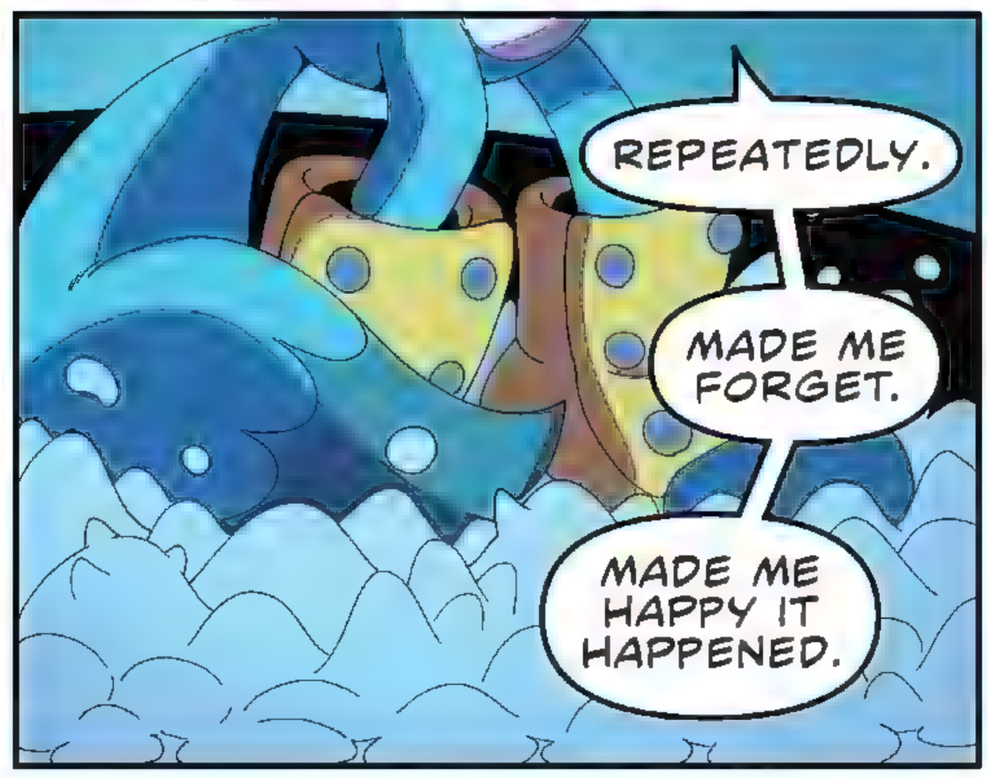
LET'S CALL A TRUCE FOR NOW. JUST UNTIL WE'VE GOT THE FACTS SORTED OUT.


I... GUESS? YOU... UM... SURE?

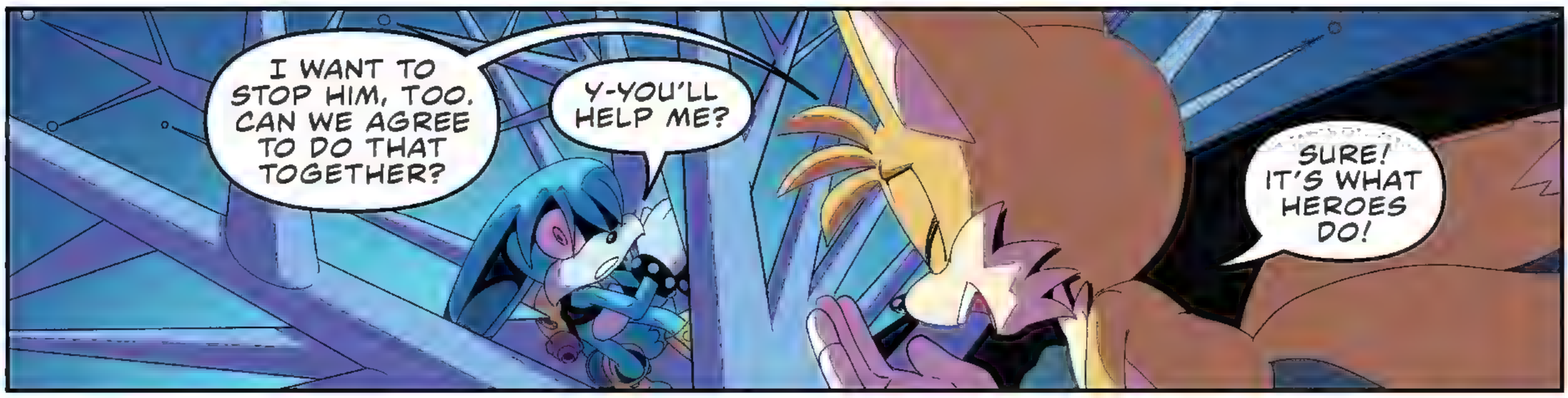
THANK YOU.
FIRST, MAY I ASK WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE BADNIKS?
UM... STARLINE... SUMMONED THEM. HE'S... ARMY...


STARLINE...

...HE TRIED TO KIDNAP ME ONCE. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT WAS PROBABLY FOR SOMETHING AWFUL. DID HE... HURT YOU?
...YES.


REPEATEDLY.
MADE ME FORGET.
MADE ME HAPPY IT HAPPENED.

I HATE HIM!


I WANT TO STOP HIM, TOO. CAN WE AGREE TO DO THAT TOGETHER?
Y-YOU'LL HELP ME?
SURE! IT'S WHAT HEROES DO!

THEN WHAT?

LET'S TAKE THAT ONE STEP AT A TIME. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS WE STOP HIS PLANS, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH... I GUESS SO...

GREAT! THEN LET'S FIND SONIC AND--

NO.
SURGE HAS TO DESTROY SONIC! IT'S ALL SHE WANTS!
I WON'T LET YOU STOP HER!

WHAM

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE TUSSLED LIKE THIS!

I HOPE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, TOO!

"FUN"?

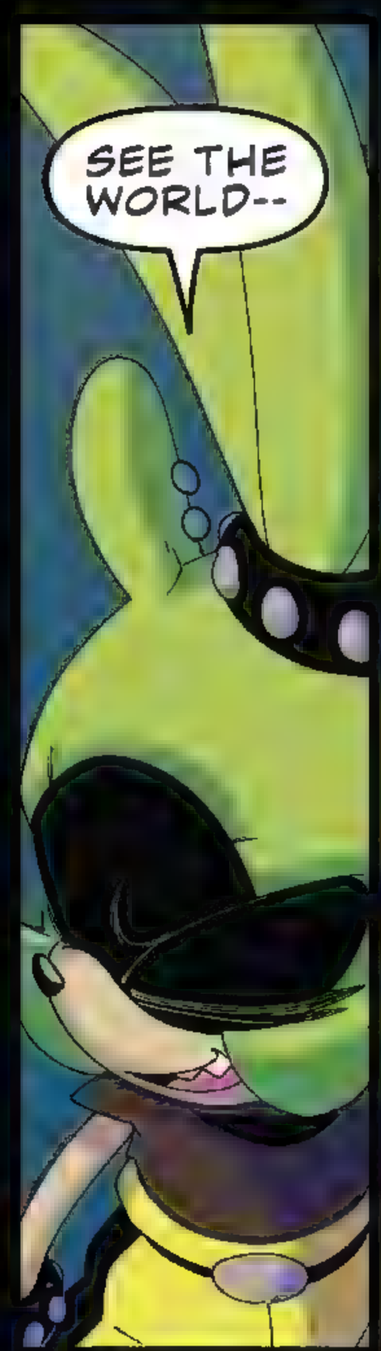
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HAVING "FUN"! THIS IS A DUEL TO THE DEATH!

YEAH, I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THOSE. I'VE ALSO FOUGHT A FEW FOLKS WITH THE WHOLE "THE WORLD WRONGED ME SO I'M GOING TO DESTROY THE WORLD" SCHTICK.

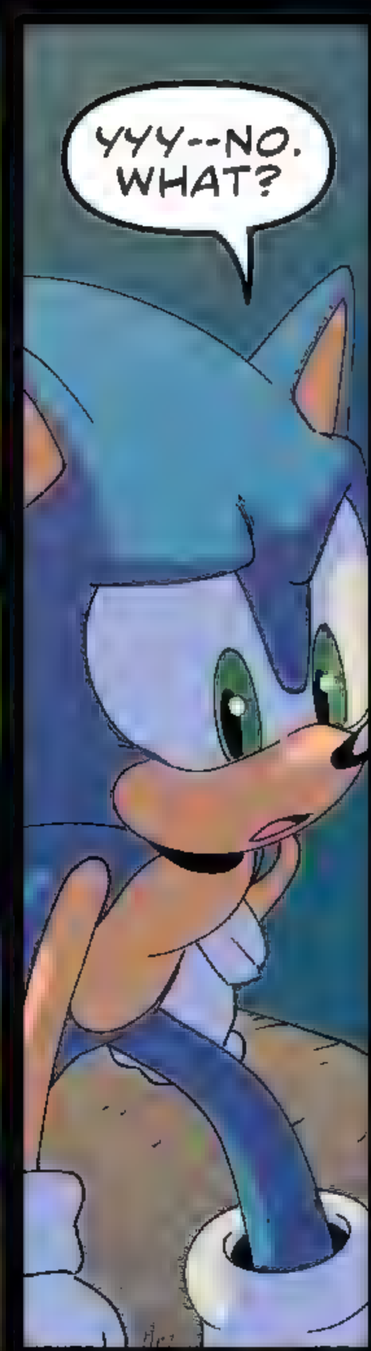
IT'S NOT A SCHTICK! IT'S WHO I AM!

I APPRECIATE THAT. I REALLY DO.

POW
!
I DON'T KNOW YOUR FULL STORY SO I CAN'T REALLY JUDGE. BUT I CAN'T LET YOU HURT ANYONE.
SO END IT!
NOPE. I'D RATHER GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO REBOUND.
YOU CAN'T BE THIS NAIVE.
I LIKE TO KEEP IT SIMPLE.
I LIVE FOR THE MOMENT. I WANT TO SEE THE WORLD, FIND ALL ITS THRILLS AND ADVENTURES, AND ENJOY THEM.
I WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE THE FREEDOM TO DO THAT, TOO.
AND YOU WOULDN'T GET THE OPPORTUNITY IF I TOOK THAT CHANCE AWAY FROM YOU.
I'VE MADE PEACE WITH ENOUGH ENEMIES TO KNOW THERE IS A BETTER WAY.
SO I'M WILLING TO CHALK THIS UP TO "A ROCKY START" AND LET US HAVE A DO-OVER, IF YOU WILL.
JUST LIKE THAT?
JUST LIKE THAT.
THE DOCTORS, TOO?
EVEN THEM.

TCH. REINVENT MYSELF, YEAH? CHOOSE WHO I WANT TO BE?
THAT'S THE IDEA.

SEE THE WORLD--

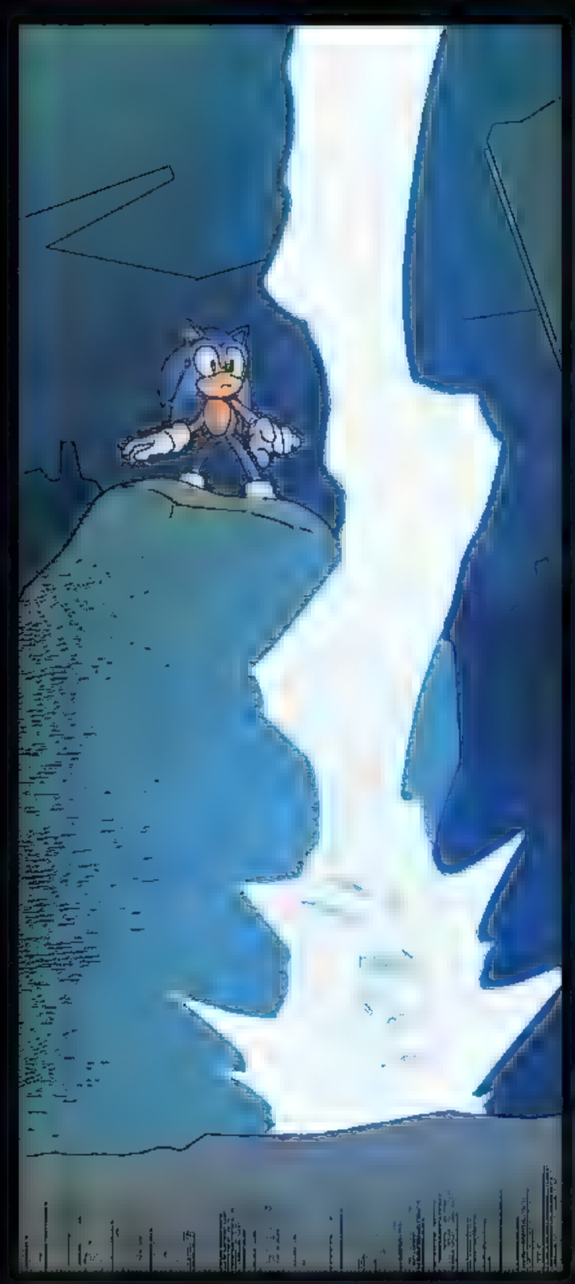
YEAH!

--THAT REJECTED ME?

YYY--NO. WHAT?

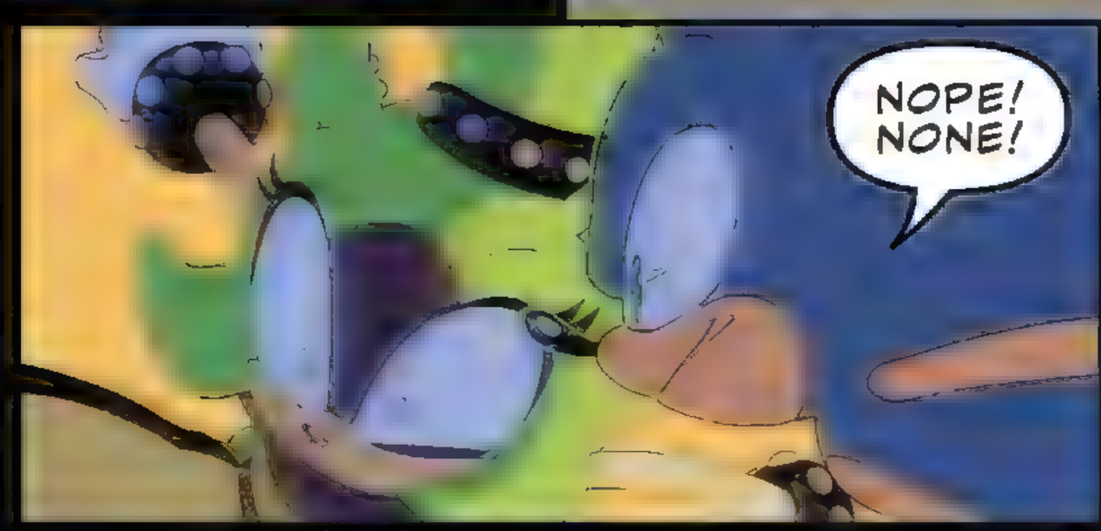
IF I VOLUNTEERED TO WORK WITH STARLINE, I OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING GOOD GOING IN MY LIFE.

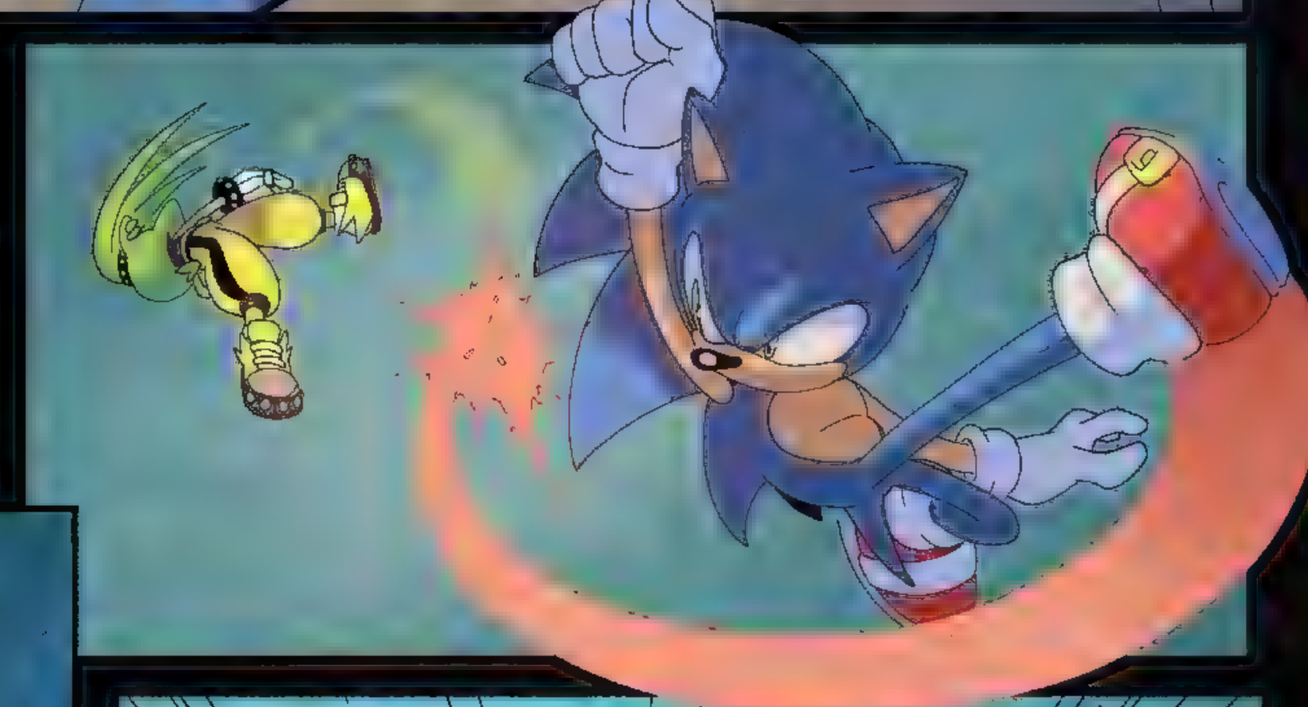
IF HE KIDNAPPED ME, NOBODY HAS TRIED TO FIND ME.

SIGH
FINE. WE'LL DO IT YOUR WAY.



YEAH! GIMME THAT FREEDOM TO DO AS I PLEASE! NO REGRETS!


NOPE! NONE!

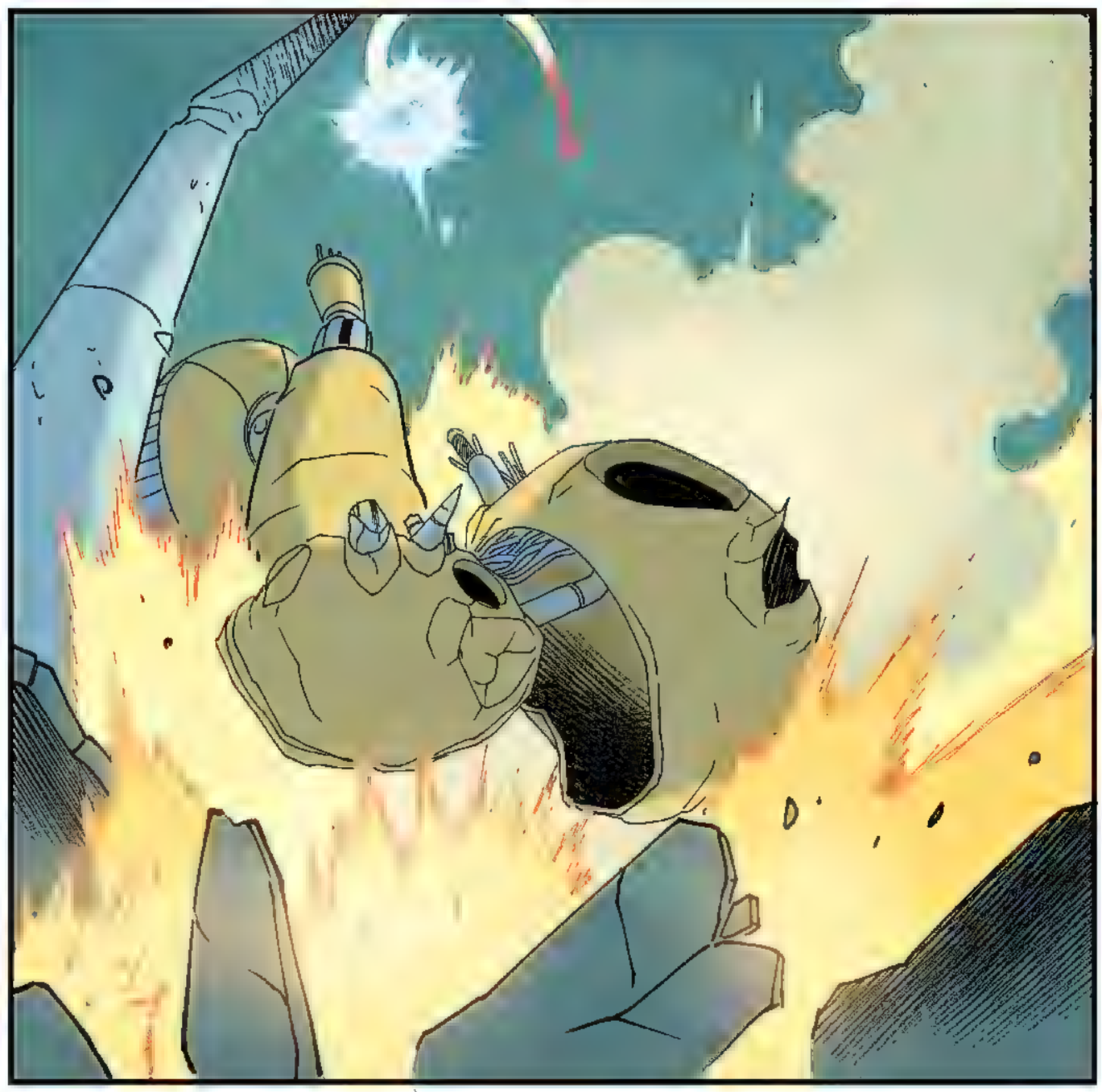


'CAUSE I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THAT FROM ANYONE ELSE, EITHER.
YOU CAN CHOOSE TO BE A PROBLEM. WHICH MEANS YOU CHOOSE TO GET A WHOOPIN' FROM ME!

I WAS BUILT TO END YOU! YOUR MORALS! YOUR FRIENDS! YOUR WORLD!
I'M BURNING IT ALL DOWN AND DANCING ON THE ASHES!

I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU!
ALL YOU'RE DOING IS WASTING MY TIME...
...WRECKING MY STUFF...
...AND TICKING ME OFF!
BRAVO, SIR! I'M THRILLED YOU'RE STILL THE SUPERIOR MECHA PILOT!
BUT YOU CHOSE THE WRONG MACHINE TO FACE ME!

BEHOLD! THE EXACT POWER USED TO DEFEAT THAT VERY MODEL IN THE PAST!
BRACE YOURSELF FOR MY TRICORE BLAST!



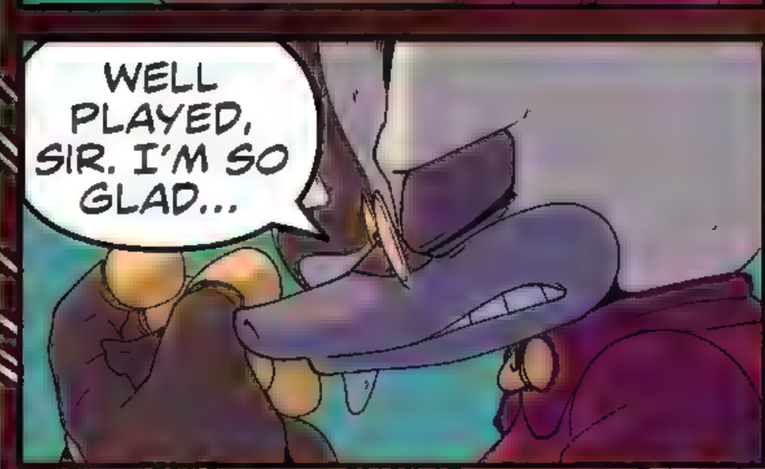
THAT... IS WHAT HAPPENS... WHEN YOU DON'T... PLAN FOR... CONTINGENCIES...

NO, DOCTOR...

...YOU PLAYED YOURSELF.
I SPECIFICALLY CHOSE THE EGG EMPEROR ONCE I REALIZED IT WAS YOU WHO RAIDED MY POWER CORE RESERVES.

I KNEW YOUR OBSESSION WITH MY PAST EXPLOITS WOULD GIVE YOU LOGICAL TUNNEL VISION.
I KNEW YOU'D USE THEIR POWER--HOWEVER YOU'VE UTILIZED IT--TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT.
AND THUS, I KNEW YOU'D DEPLETE THAT POWER JUST TO MAKE YOUR POINT.

OH NO!

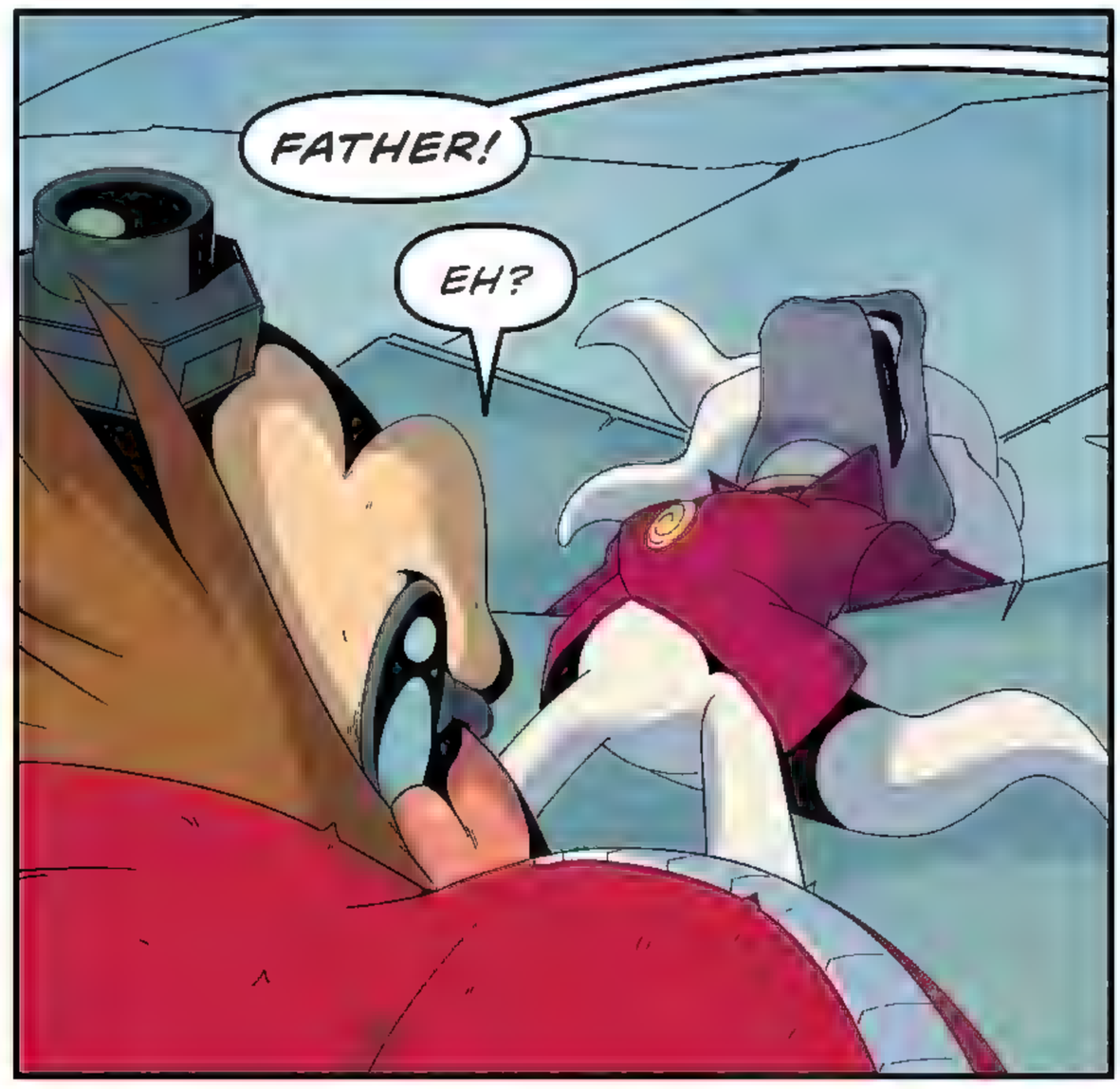

WELL PLAYED, SIR. I'M SO GLAD...

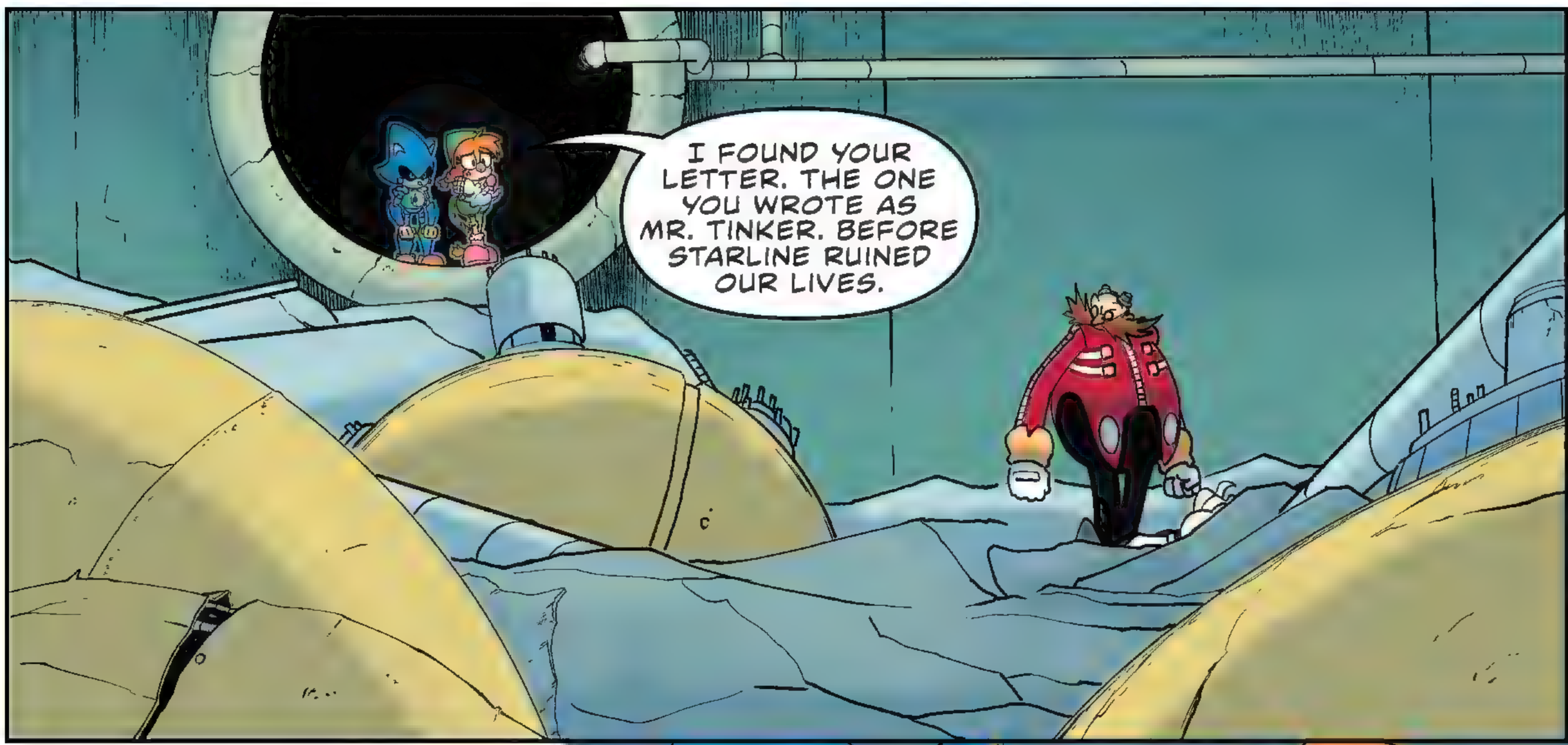
...YOU'RE SEEING THINGS MY WAY!

...WHY AREN'T YOU...
YOU TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOUR INVENTIONS, REMEMBER? YOU WERE SO VERY, VERY PROUD OF THAT GLOVE IN PARTICULAR.
DID YOU HONESTLY THINK I'D LET YOU STAY BY MY SIDE WITH THAT KIND OF POWER ON HAND WITHOUT TAKING SOME PRECAUTIONS?
Y-YOU... ACTUALLY LISTENED TO ME? B-BUT YOU N-NEVER SAID... ACKNOWLEDGED...
...NO! THIS ISN'T FAIR! YOU'VE NEVER SHOWN THIS MUCH FORESIGHT!
I'VE MADE MY MISTAKES. ONE OF THEM WAS TOLERATING YOU FOR THIS LONG.
I REFUSE TO LOSE! NOT WHEN I'M THIS CLOSE!

GLONK

LITTLE MAN, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER?


FATHER!
EH?


I FOUND YOUR LETTER. THE ONE YOU WROTE AS MR. TINKER. BEFORE STARLINE RUINED OUR LIVES.

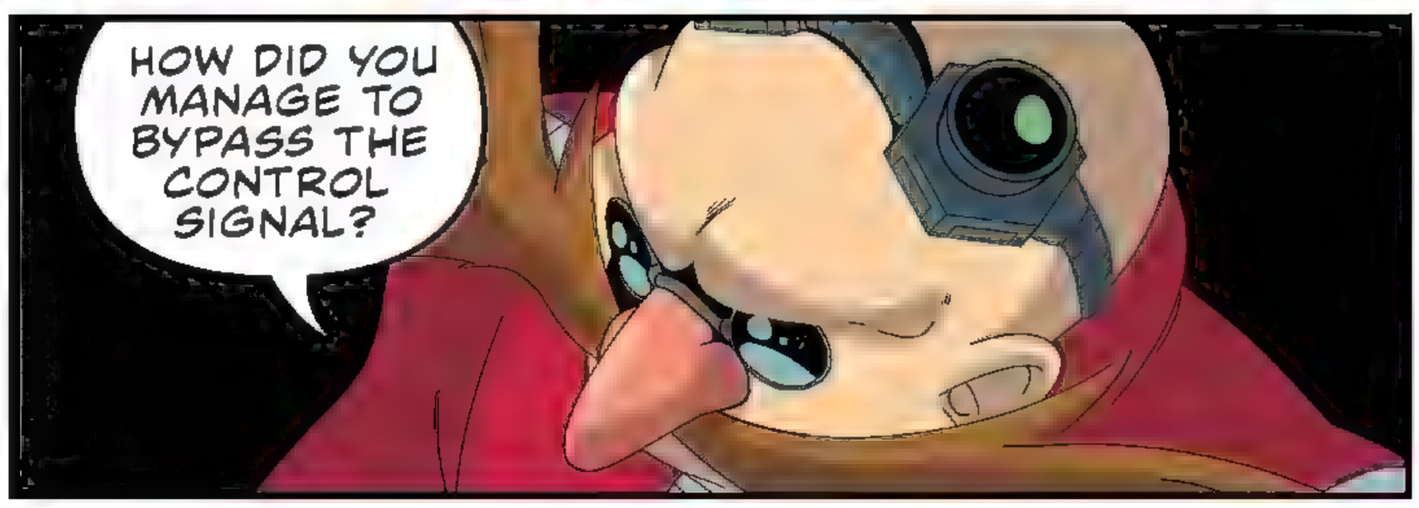
HE DOES MAKE A MESS OF THINGS, DOESN'T HE?
PUTTING ME BACK INTO THE CORRECT FRAME OF MIND WASN'T ONE OF HIS MISTAKES, THOUGH.

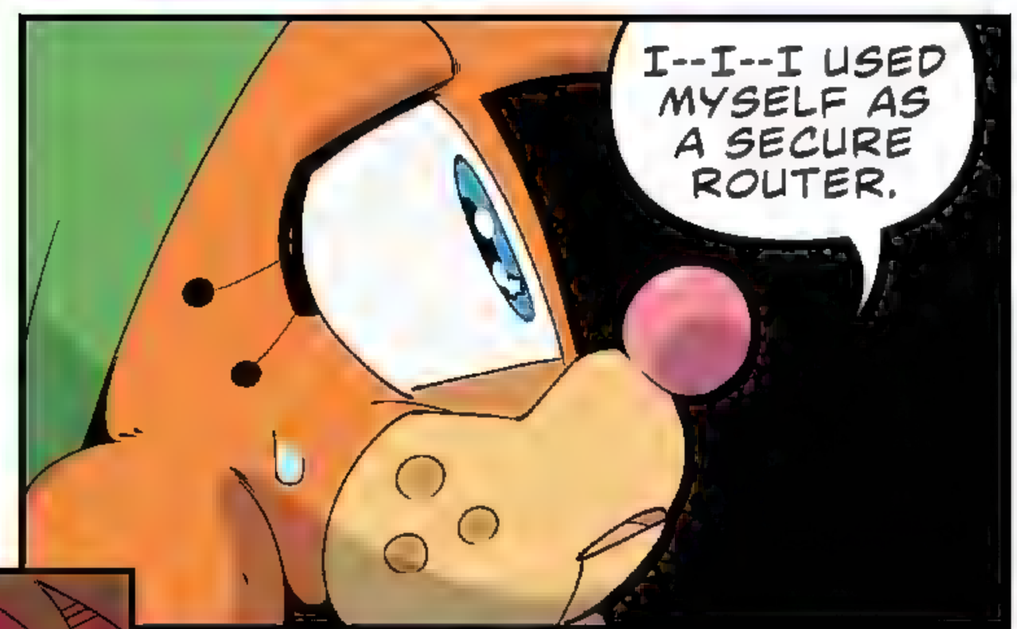
I... KNOW THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL. AND I CAN'T CHANGE THAT. SO... SO...
...I'VE COME TO SAY GOODBYE. MY FATHER IS GONE. I HAVE... I HAVE TO MOVE ON.

"FATHER" THIS AND "FATHER" THAT.
WHY ARE YOU BOTH SO BLASTED CLINGY?

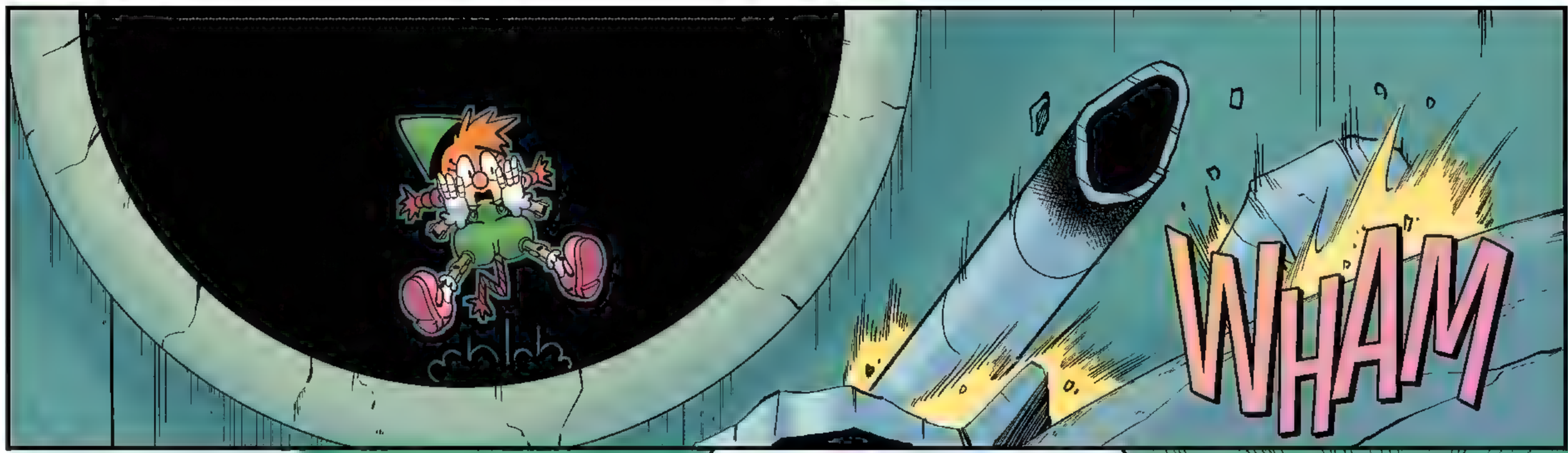
SO! IF YOU'RE NOT WITH ME, THEN YOU'RE AGAINST ME.
PLANNING ON DUELING METAL SONIC TONIGHT?
N-NO, SIR. I FIXED HIM, IN FACT. JUST LIKE HOW I'M GOING TO HELP ALL THE ROBOTS YOU ABANDON.

RRUMBLE


HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO BYPASS THE CONTROL SIGNAL?


I--I--I USED MYSELF AS A SECURE ROUTER.

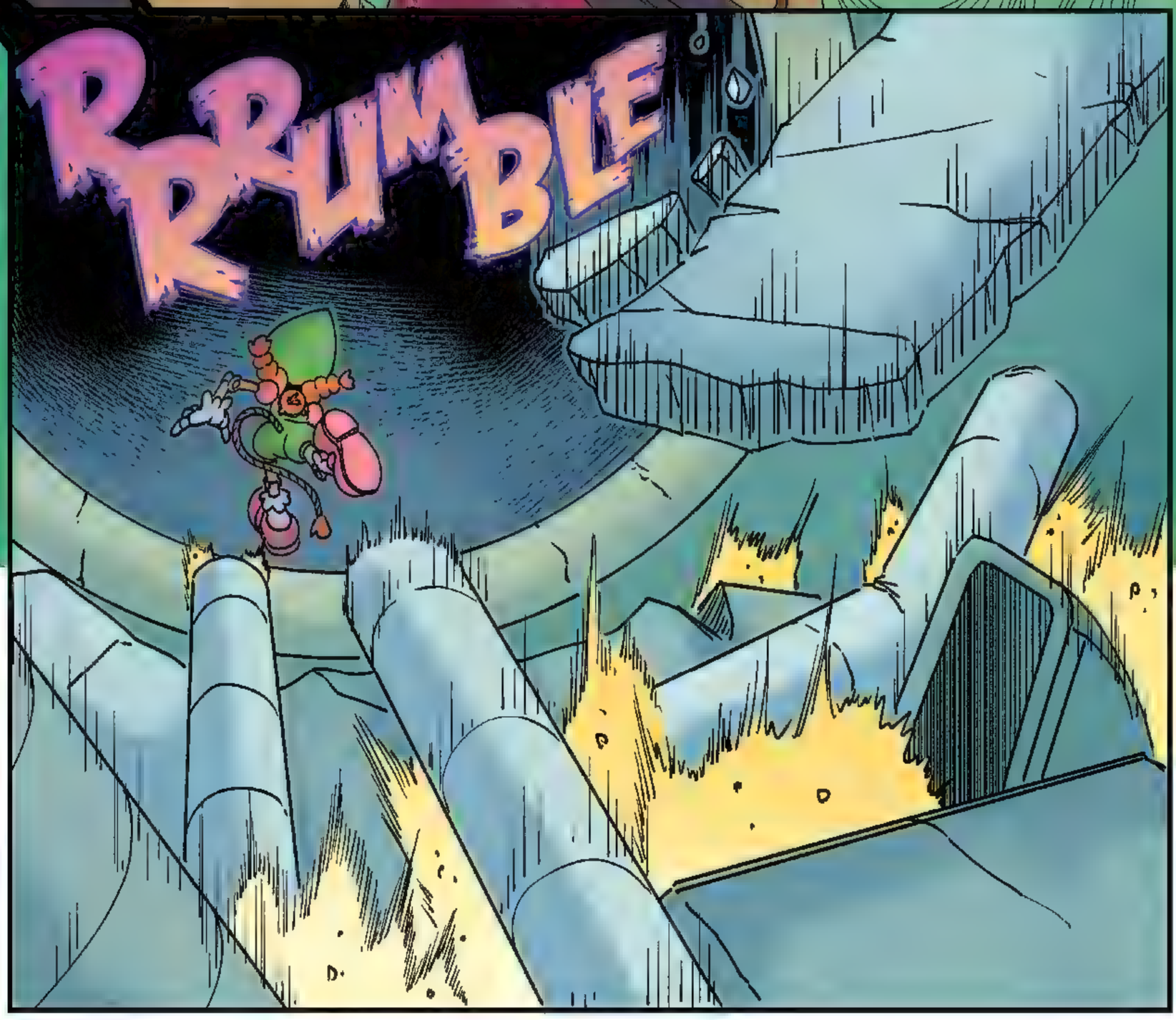
SO... YOU INTERFACED WITH HIS CODING DIRECTLY?
Y-YES?
OH-HO-HO! SPLENDID.
TELL YOU WHAT! YOU'VE DONE SUCH A GOOD JOB, I'LL GIVE YOU A CHOICE.
YOU CAN EITHER JOIN ME AS A MECHANIC OR YOU CAN GO BACK TO SONIC AND HIS BOTHERSOME BUDDIES.
I SAID THIS WAS GOODBYE! OF COURSE I'M GOING BACK TO MY FRIENDS!
HAHAHA! VERY WELL! BE SEEING YOU, BELLE.


WHAM

HEY! MOVE IT! THE STREET IS CAVING IN!

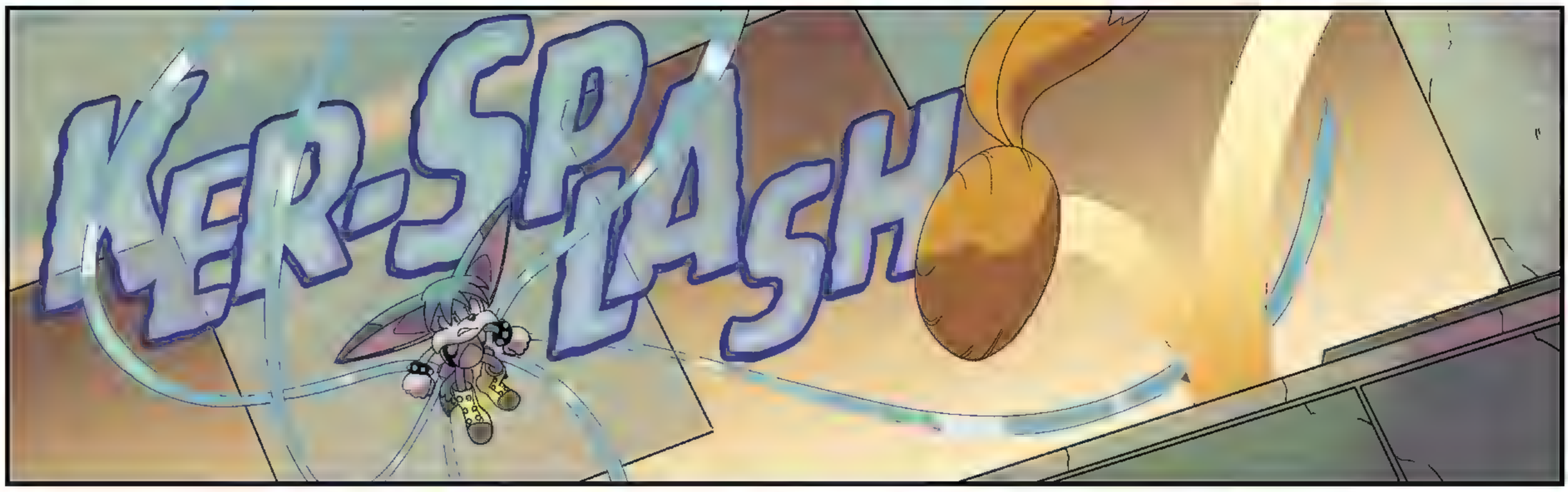
I PLANNED EVERYTHING OUT. DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAIL. I HAD EVERY ADVANTAGE. ACCOUNTED FOR EVERY CONTINGENCY.
AND I STILL LOST. I DID EVERYTHING RIGHT. HE DESTROYED ALL THAT EFFORT IN MINUTES.
I'M A FAILURE. AN UTTER, DISGRACEFUL FAILURE...

CRASH

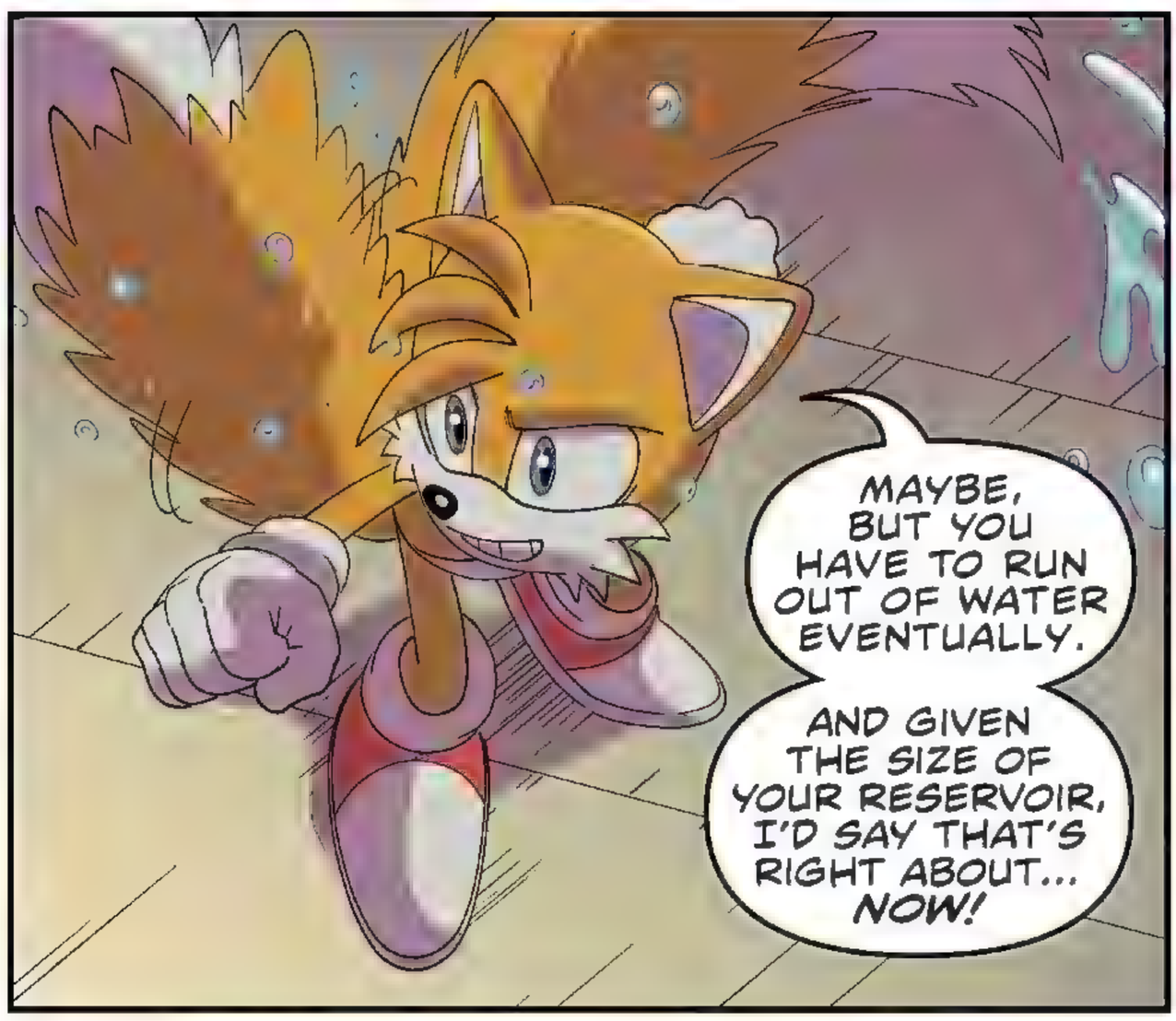

RRRUMBLE

WHAT IN THE WORLD?!

OW!


KER-SPLASH

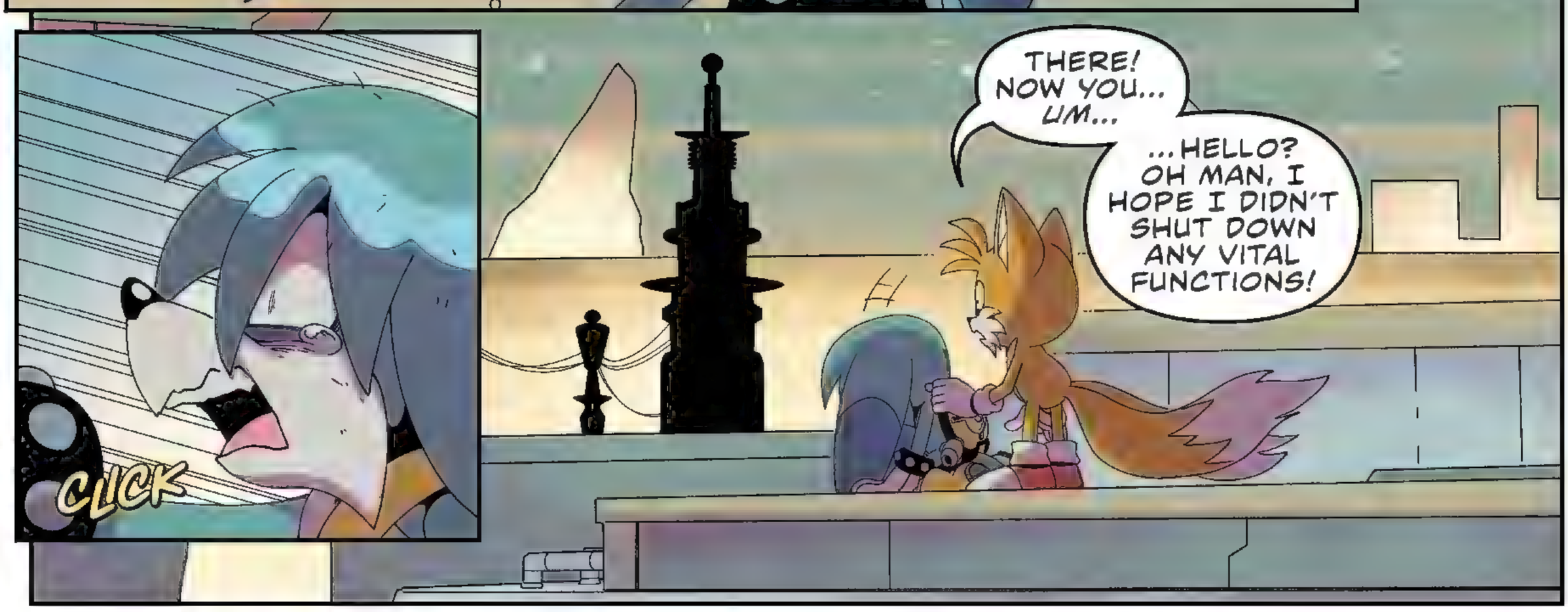
YOU CAN'T EVADE ME FOREVER.
EVENTUALLY YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE IN.


MAYBE, BUT YOU HAVE TO RUN OUT OF WATER EVENTUALLY.
AND GIVEN THE SIZE OF YOUR RESERVOIR, I'D SAY THAT'S RIGHT ABOUT... NOW!

HNNNGN

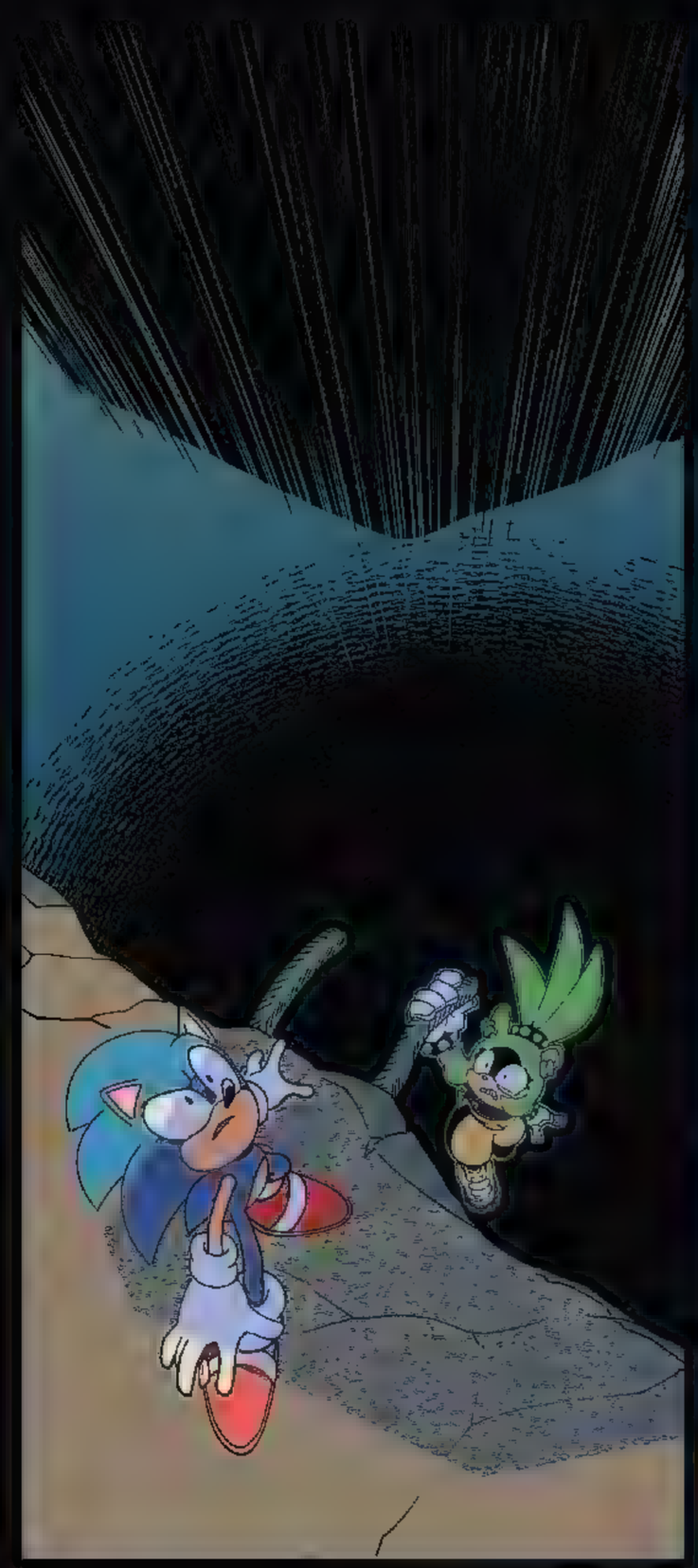
NO NO NO SHE'LL BE SO MAD NO NO NO.

NOW TO TURN YOUR PACK OFF BEFORE YOU CAN REFILL IT...
NO, NO, NO! SURGE, HELP!


CLICK
THERE! NOW YOU... UM...
...HELLO? OH MAN, I HOPE I DIDN'T SHUT DOWN ANY VITAL FUNCTIONS!

FALL DOWN ALREADY!
SORRY! I JUST DON'T QUIT!
IF YOU WON'T QUIT, THEN I'LL END YOU!
YOU CAN TRY!
NYAUGH!

14
WHOA! SORRY. TEN-SECOND TRUCE SO I CAN HAUL YOU OUT, OKAY?
ZOT
YOW!
HEH. GOT THE LAST HIT.



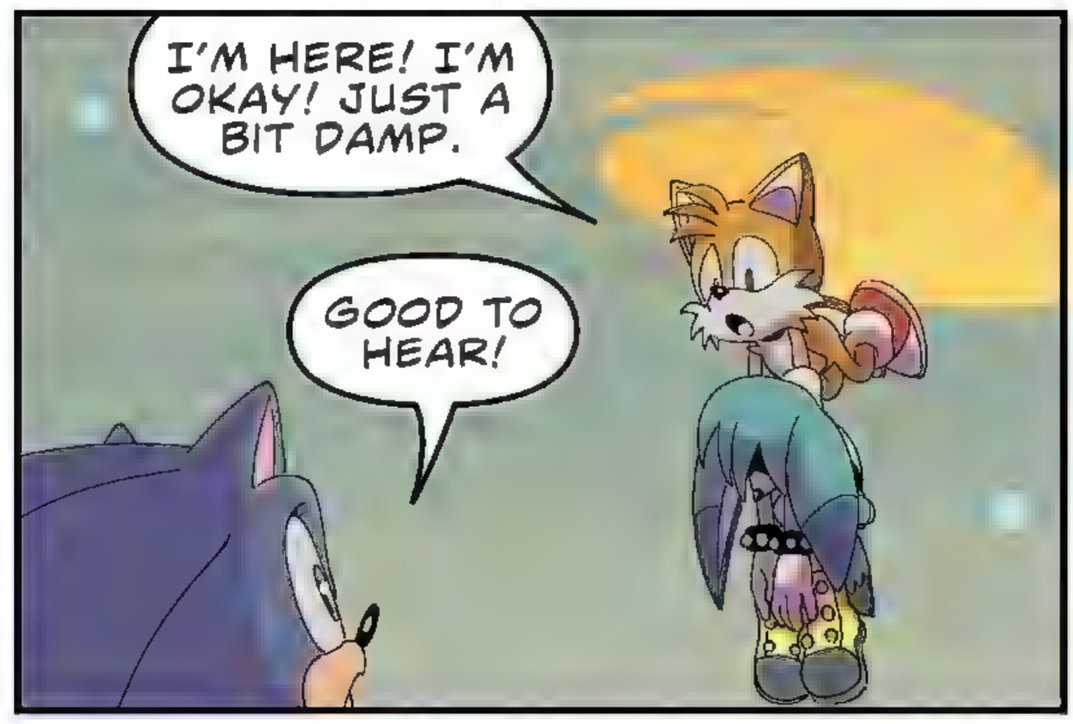
WHOOM

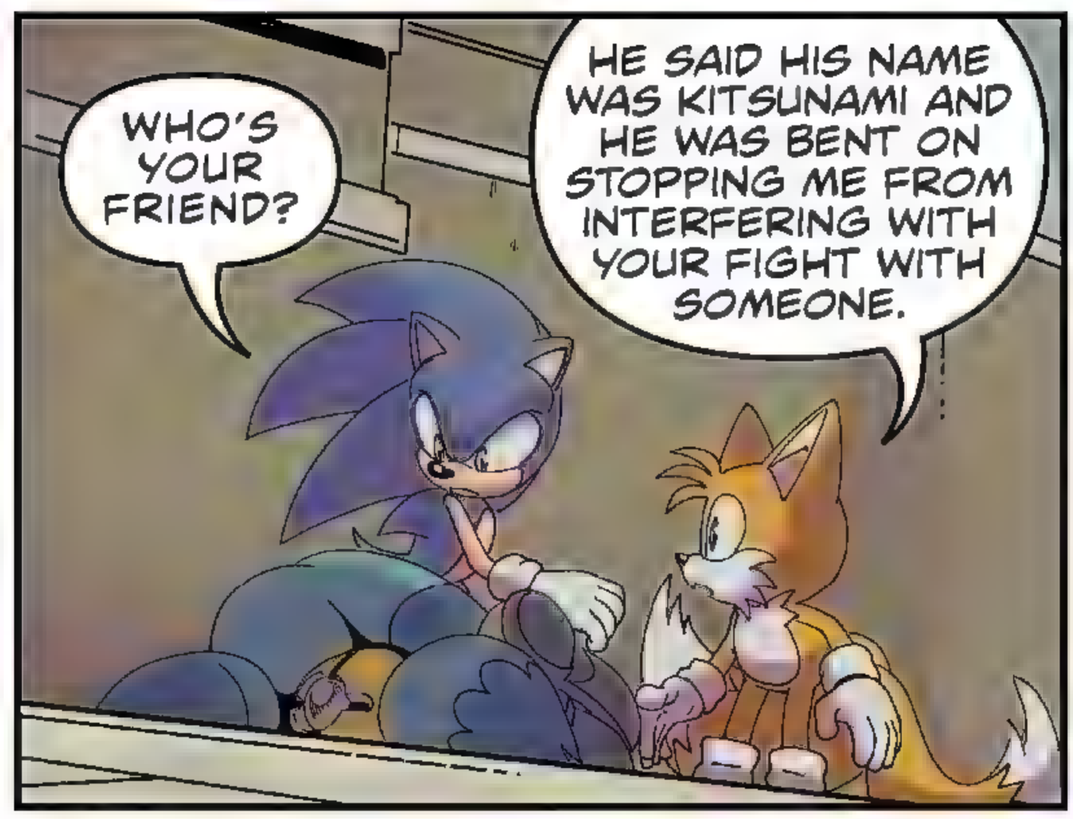
SURGE?!

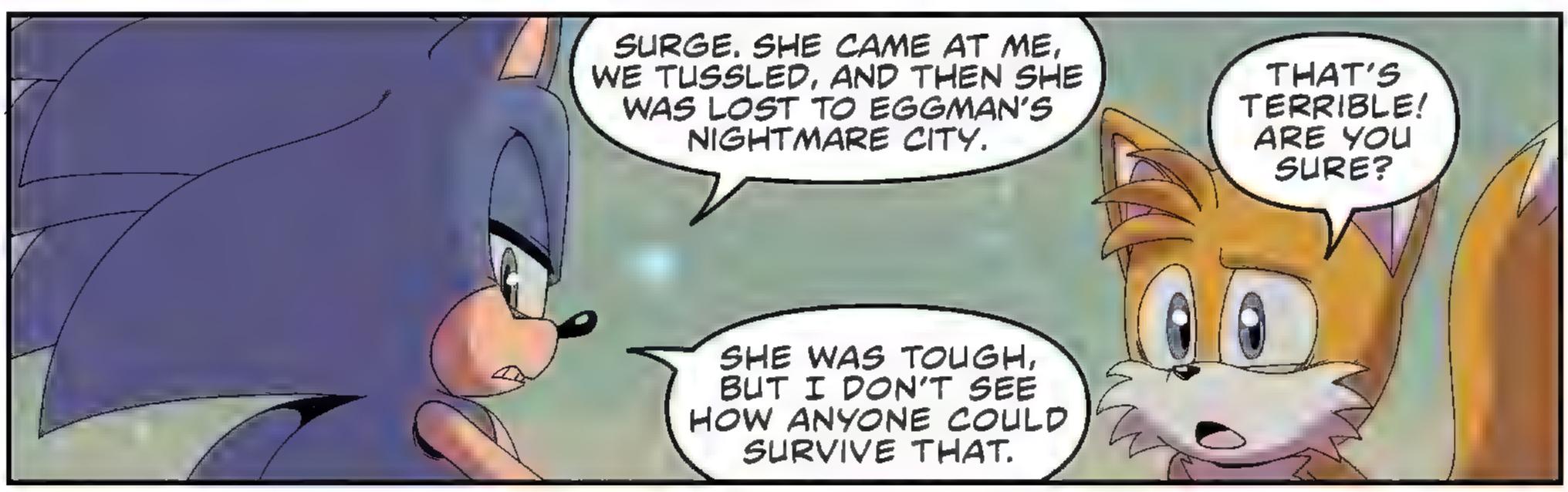
THAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM WITH GIVING PEOPLE A CHOICE.
YOU CAN'T STOP THEM FROM MAKING THE WRONG ONES.

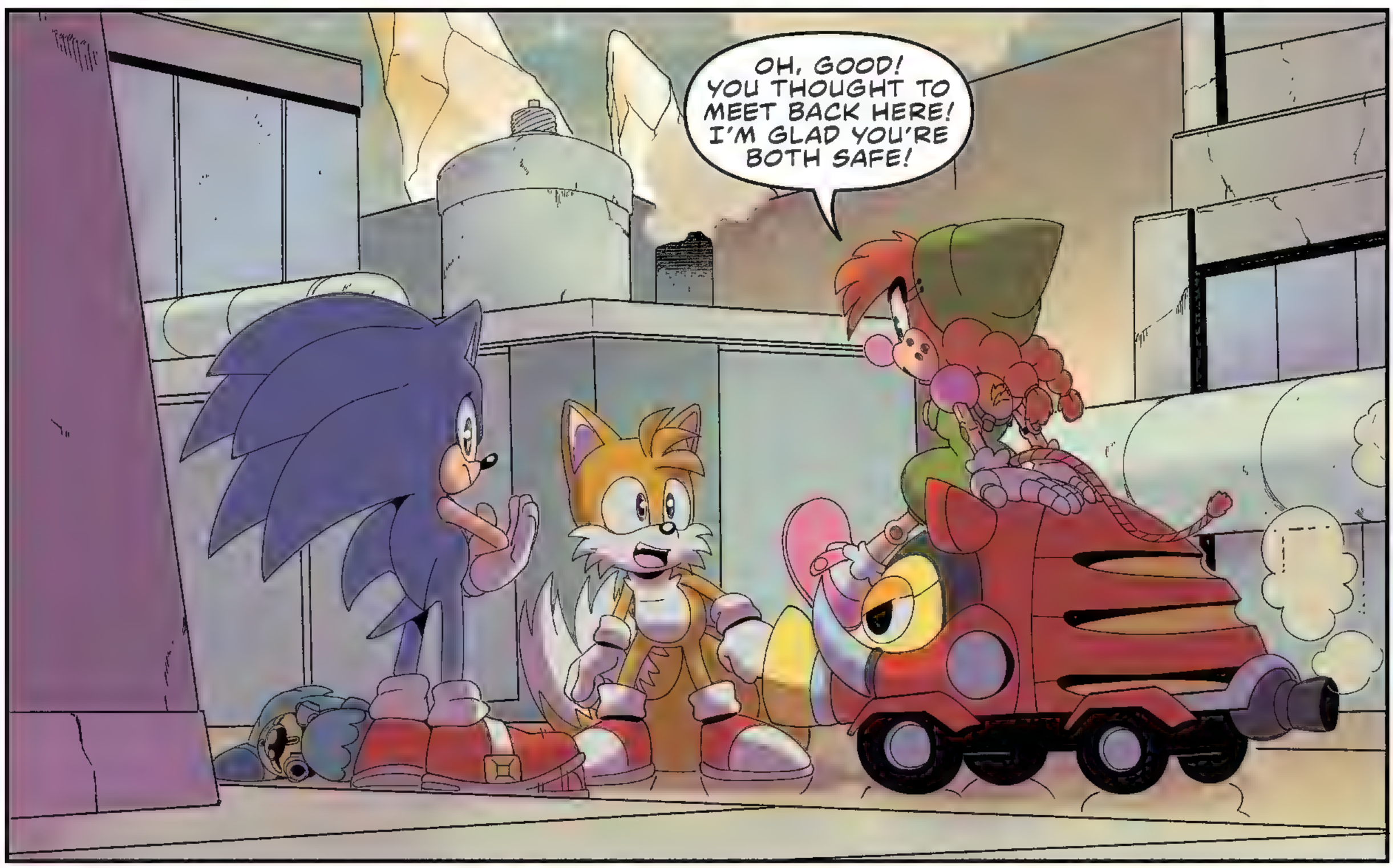
I NEED TO FIND TAILS AND BELLE. WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE IS GOING WRONG TODAY?

TAILS? BELLE?
AW, MAN, IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THEM...

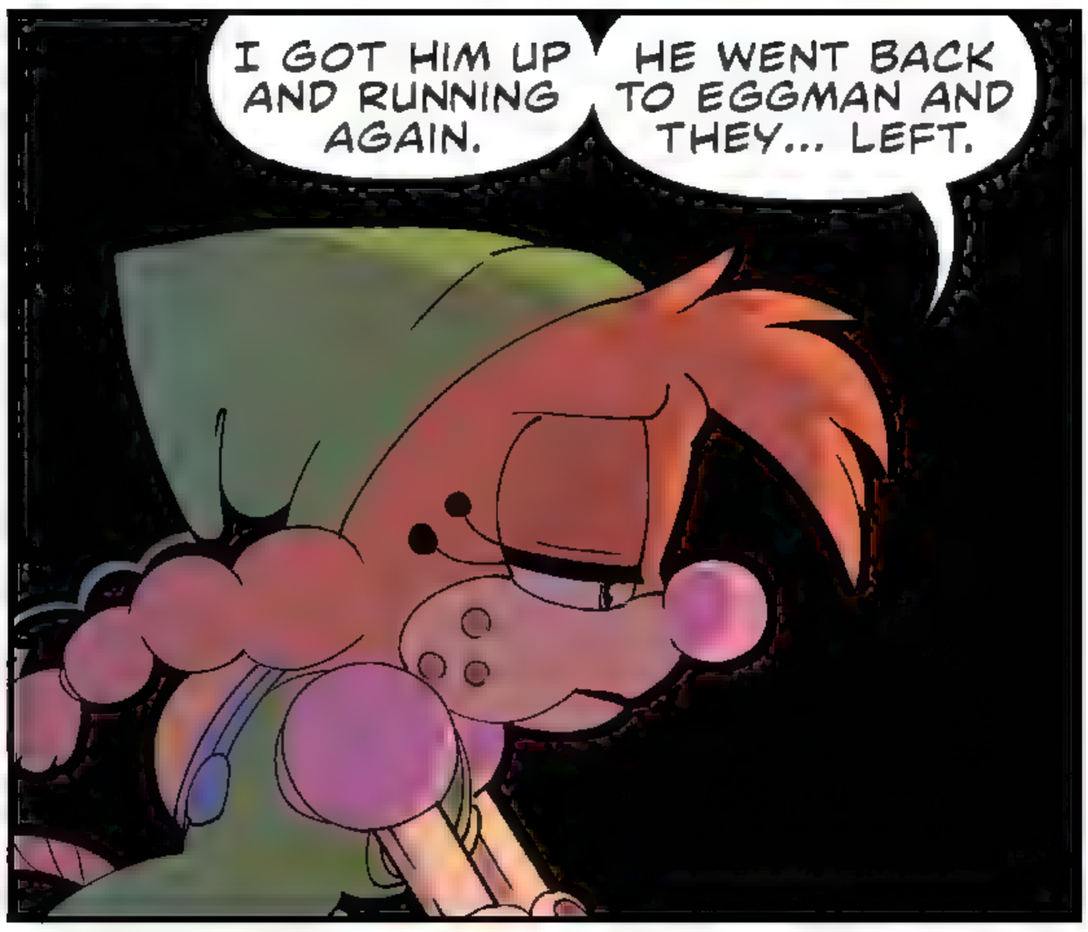

I'M HERE! I'M OKAY! JUST A BIT DAMP.
GOOD TO HEAR!

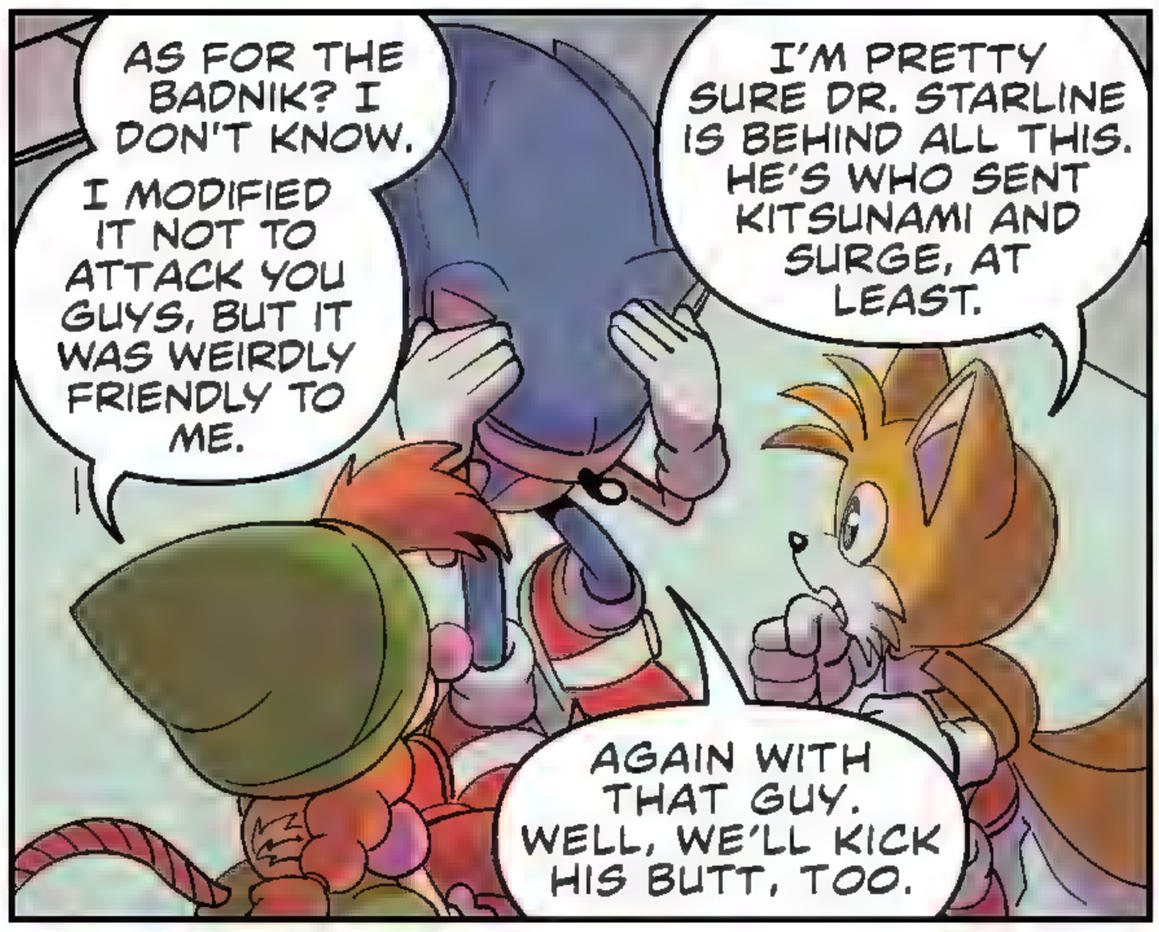

WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
HE SAID HIS NAME WAS KITSUNAMI AND HE WAS BENT ON STOPPING ME FROM INTERFERING WITH YOUR FIGHT WITH SOMEONE.

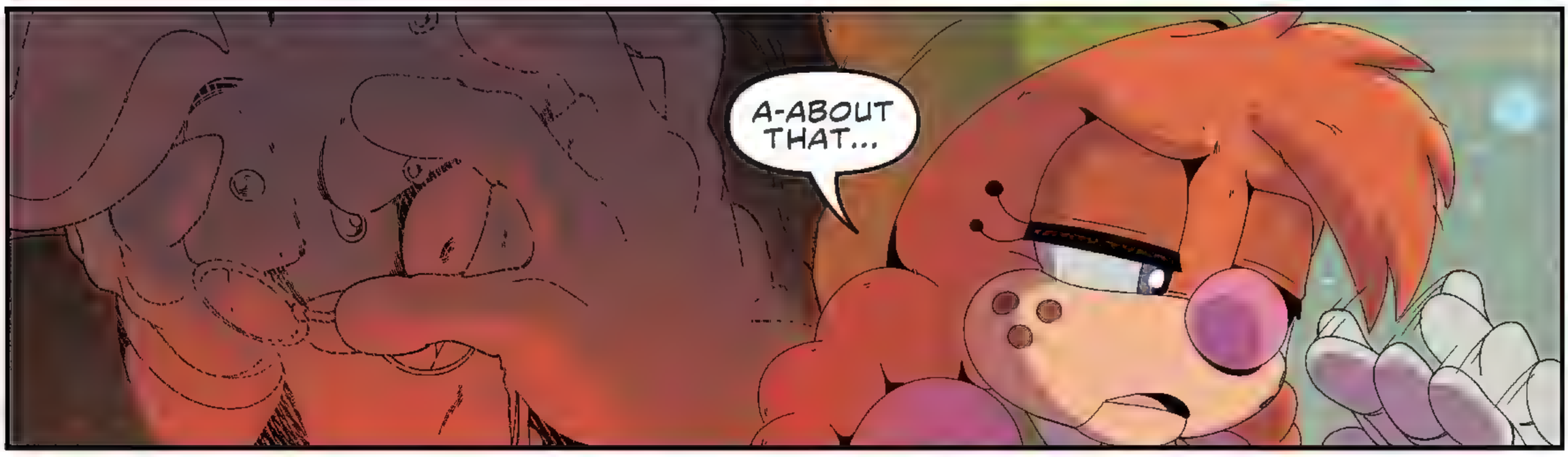

SURGE. SHE CAME AT ME, WE TUSSLED, AND THEN SHE WAS LOST TO EGGMAN'S NIGHTMARE CITY.
THAT'S TERRIBLE! ARE YOU SURE?
SHE WAS TOUGH, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW ANYONE COULD SURVIVE THAT.

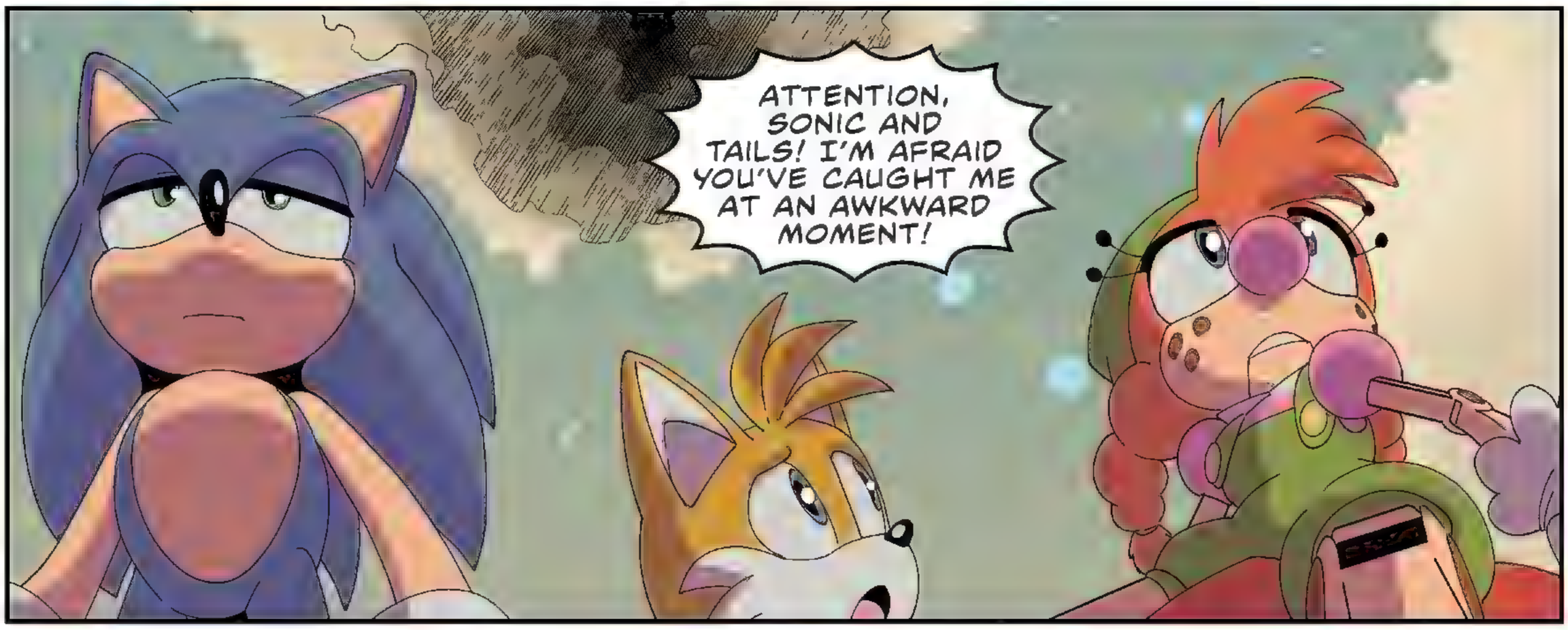

OH, GOOD! YOU THOUGHT TO MEET BACK HERE! I'M GLAD YOU'RE BOTH SAFE!

HOW DID YOU KEEP THAT BADNIK FROM ATTACKING YOU?
HOLD ON! FIRST, WHERE IS METAL SONIC?


I GOT HIM UP AND RUNNING AGAIN.
HE WENT BACK TO EGGMAN AND THEY... LEFT.


AS FOR THE BADNIK? I DON'T KNOW.
I MODIFIED IT NOT TO ATTACK YOU GUYS, BUT IT WAS WEIRDLY FRIENDLY TO ME.
I'M PRETTY SURE DR. STARLINE IS BEHIND ALL THIS. HE'S WHO SENT KITSUNAMI AND SURGE, AT LEAST.
AGAIN WITH THAT GUY. WELL, WE'LL KICK HIS BUTT, TOO.


A-ABOUT THAT...


ATTENTION, SONIC AND TAILS! I'M AFRAID YOU'VE CAUGHT ME AT AN AWKWARD MOMENT!

MY EGGPERIAL CITY WASN'T READY FOR VISITORS, AND THEN THE *LATE* DR. STARLINE JUST *HAD* TO MAKE A MESS OF THE PLACE.

NEVERTHELESS, YOU ARE GUESTS IN MY HOME, AND I MUST BE A GRACIOUS HOST! SO PLEASE, ALLOW ME AND MY LUDICROUSLY MASSIVE SWARM OF BADNIKS...

...TO SHOW YOU A

PROPER WELCOME!

NEXT TIME: ESCAPE FROM THE EMPIRE!

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Greetings, Sonic Squad! WHOA! That was INTENSE. Surge met Sonic, and Kit met Tails, and Starline finally got to face off with Eggman… I think I need to lie down. Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Adam Bryce Thomas, Matt Herms, Heather Breckel, Reggie Graham, and Shawn Lee for the "Battle for the Empire." They did an amazing job! Now, let's check out your letters and art!

Hello. My name is Fox, and I am 16 years old. I originally became a Sonic fan after I heard a remix of the "Studiopolis Act 1" theme song. I started listening to the soundtrack for *Sonic Mania*, and I have since wanted to play it. Then, a lunar new year sale occurred on Steam, and I bought *Sonic Mania* along with *Sonic Generations* and *Forces*. I found *Sonic Forces* to be my favorite because of the story and music. After playing the games, I read the comics, and I think the new characters are my favorite characters (along with Sonic and Shadow), and I think that the future Sonic movies need Tangle, Belle, and Starline at the very least. I'm not normally a fan of stories that center around friendship, but I thought the *Tangle and Whisper* volume was really cool. I also think

Starline is a better villain than Eggman because his antics are far more varied than Eggman's robot-centric attacks. I drew the two doctors, Eggman and Starline, in the Chemical Plant Zone because I feel that CPZ represents the doctors quite well, and it looks cool (I was in a hurry to get this in for the big 50th issue so I used tracing for Starline and most of Eggman, but I colored the characters and drew CPZ without tracing). I look forward to seeing the big showdown in the 50th issue, and I think I know who will win. While I wait, I will work on my fan fiction and go through some of the later issues of this series to make sure I am up to speed.

My question is, will any of the comic characters like Tangle, Whisper, or Dr. Starline be used in the movies?

Another question: how do you come up with these new characters and story arcs?

Hello, Fox,

Thank you for your letter and art! I love hearing everyone's favorite parts of the Sonic franchise. I would love to see IDW original characters in the movies! Seeing Tangle's tail in action on the big screen would be AMAZING. Maybe once they introduce all the video game characters?

To answer a few of your other questions: When planning new arcs, authors draw inspiration from the franchise's past, their own lives, or other art, in order to discover new ways to challenge the characters. So for the Trial by Fire arc, Evan really wanted to tell a story about wildfires because that's something she's been affected by. New story arcs often come from the author asking themselves where they'd

like to see the story and characters progress, and then figuring out how to get there. And new characters are created to fill a role that the current cast can't fill, to tell an interesting story, or to shake up the plot. When it comes to the actual character design, the artist draws inspiration from the art style of the series and the character's personality.

Hope you enjoyed #50!

Hi, guys.

First I just wanted to say that I've been absolutely loving the comic so far, and I can't wait for issue 50. I'm a pretty new Sonic fan, having only really gotten into it after watching the two amazing movies, but my obsession has quickly grown and I've been consuming everything Sonic I can get my hands on. I have one question: is my boy Knuckles going to make an appearance again anytime soon? I've loved how he's been written in this run so far. He's probably my favourite character, but we haven't seen him in a while. Perhaps Blaze might come back soon as well? I feel like we could all use a little more of everyone's favourite fire-wielding cat in our lives.

Keep up the great work!

Josh

Hi, Josh!

I'm so glad to hear that the movies got you into the comics! It's fun to see all the hype around Sonic at the moment. You'll have to catch up on the animated shows next!

Knuckles was in the Free Comic Book Day issue that came out in May! And he will be in the 2022 Annual, as will Blaze. They're both really fun characters, so I hope we get to see them more, too. I'll see what I can do about that…

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, check out issue #51 to see if Sonic, Tails, and Belle can make it safely out of the city…

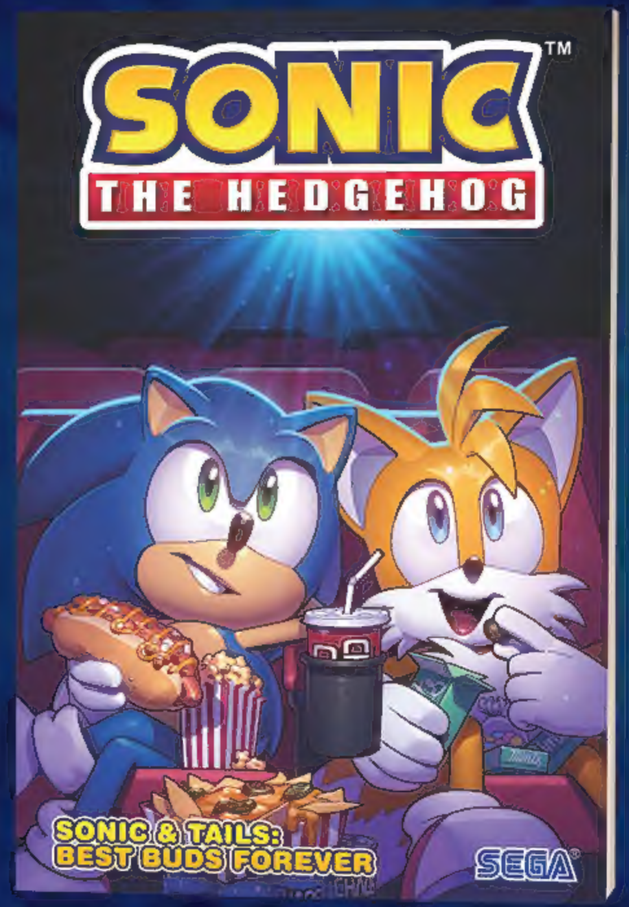
NEXT MONTH

SONIC & TAILS: BEST BUDS FOREVER

Can't wait to see this terrific twosome meet on the big screen?

Celebrate these fast friends in a must-have comic collection of their greatest adventures!

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG



Ian Flynn • Evan Stanley
Tracy Yardley • Adam Bryce Thomas

Collects *Sonic The Hedgehog* Issues #1, 13, 34, and 35

IDW @IDWPUBLISHING
IDWPUBLISHING.COM

©Sega

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG